AKIRA™

KATSUHIRO OTOMO

COLLECTION 4

BOOK FOUR

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

The year is 2030. The world is rebuilding from World War III. In **Neo-Tokyo**, plans are being made to hold the next Olympics in the "old city" — where, thirty-eight years before, the first of the bombs fell.

Kaeede and his friends make a motorcycle run into the old city to check out the site. They encounter a terrified child, **Number 26**, who possesses telekinetic abilities. During the encounter, the boy gravely injures **Tetsuo**, one of Kaneda's close friends. Then, he vanishes.

The next night, at **Herukiya**, **Kaeede** unsuccessfully attempts to pick up a newcomer, **Kay**. She and her companion, **Ryu**, are part of a resistance group dedicated to learning what is happening in the old city and putting a stop to it.

Trouble ensues, and both delinquents and resistance fighters again encounter **Number 26**. Then the **Colonel**, in charge of the covert operation, appears with **Number 27**, a crippled paranormal child named **Maseru**. **Kaeede** is separated from the resistance fighters, but he manages to hide a pill meant for **Number 26**, who is recaptured by the Colonel's men.

Following his accident, **Tetsuo** is taken to a hospital. Under the treatments of the Colonel's chief medical officer, **Tetsuo** exhibits powerful telekinetic abilities. Finally, **Tetsuo** breaks out of the Colonel's installation, using his new powers to slaughter all who oppose him.

Meanwhile, **Kaeede** re-encounters the resistance, and is brought back to their headquarters. Questioned by **Ryu**, he denies all knowledge of the stolen drug. When soldiers enter the resistance hideout in force, **Kaeede** and **Kay** manage to escape.

At **Herukiya**, **Yemegeta** and his friends tell **Kaeede** of Tetsuo's new powers and bloodthirstiness. **Kaeede** and **Yemegeta** lead the local street gangs on an all-out attack on **Tetsuo**. **Yamagata** and his team corner **Tetsuo**.

Akira **The Colonel** **Kay** **Chiyoko**

in a warehouse. Most of the gang dies, and **Kaneda** arrives in time to see **Tetsuo** brutally kill **Yamagata**. Enraged, **Kaneda** shoots **Tetsuo** — who survives.

As the **Colonel** arrives, **Tetsuo** grabs and swallows the pill **Kaneda** had hidden. He appears to be dying of an overdose. A few minutes later, **Tetsuo** recovers, more powerful than ever, and the elated **Colonel** dubs him **Number 41**.

Back at the Colonel's installation, Tetsuo's body shrugs off the effects of his wounds. Eavesdropping on the **Colonel** and his doctor, he is intrigued to learn that other paranormals possess talents he lacks.

Ryu meets with Nezu, public leader of the governmental opposition party and secretly a resistance leader as well. They share news on the **Akira** project. **Nezu**, in turn, consults **Lady Miyoko**, head of a powerful religious cult. She warns of impending catastrophes which may be linked to **Akira**.

Kay — who, like **Kaneda**, has been brought to the installation under guard — escapes, displaying a variety of psychic powers. She almost kills **Tetsuo**, and helps free **Kaneda**, sleepwalking the whole time. As guards close in on the escapees, **Tetsuo** quizzes the doctor about **Akira**, and learns that his chief rival is in cryogenic sleep. Over the course of the conversation, the doctor learns that **Tetsuo** can now read minds.

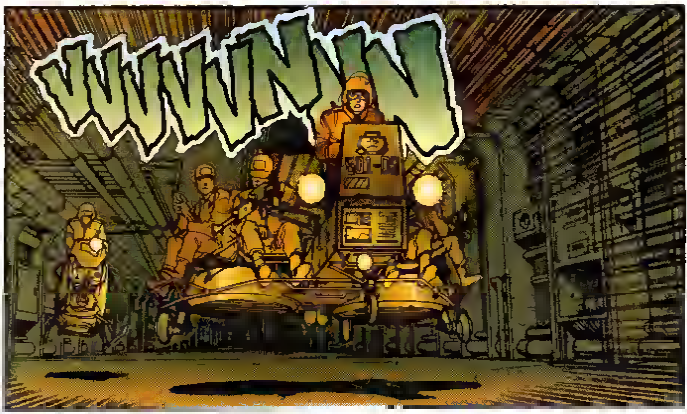
Kay takes **Kaneda** to the armory where they help themselves to the one weapon they may work against **Tetsuo** — a laser. Meanwhile, the **Colonel** has deduced that **Kay** is not psychic and is just being manipulated by **Kiyoko**. Confronting **Mesaru, Tekeshi** and **Kiyoko**, the **Colonel** is joined by **Tetsuo**, who recognizes **Tekeshi** as the one who injured him on the highway and attacks the three children.

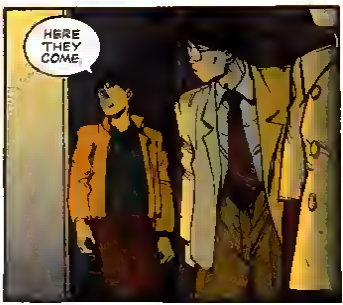
Tetsuo demands to be told Akira's location. When the **Colonel** refuses, **Tetsuo** turns on him, knocking him out. **Kaneda** and **Kay** reach the nursery and attack. To escape the laser, **Tetsuo** jumps out of the skyscraper ... landing unhurt in the street below. **Kay** asks **Kiyoko** to reveal the secret of **Akira**, and **Kiyoko** does, telling her that **Akira** is **Number 28**.

Kaneda **Tetsuo** **Takashi** **Ryu**

TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
LOOK!
LOOKS LIKE A DEAD END.
WELL, IT'S NOT!
AN INTERSECTION—
I THINK WE'VE FOUND THE MAIN TUNNEL
18
AVE

THIS IS SPECTACULAR
WHICH WAY DO WE GO?
HUNH?
VVVNNN
WHAT IS THAT?
IT SOUNDS LIKE
TOLD YOU SO
VVVVNNN

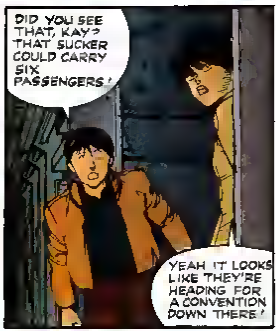

VVVVVNNN


HERE THEY COME

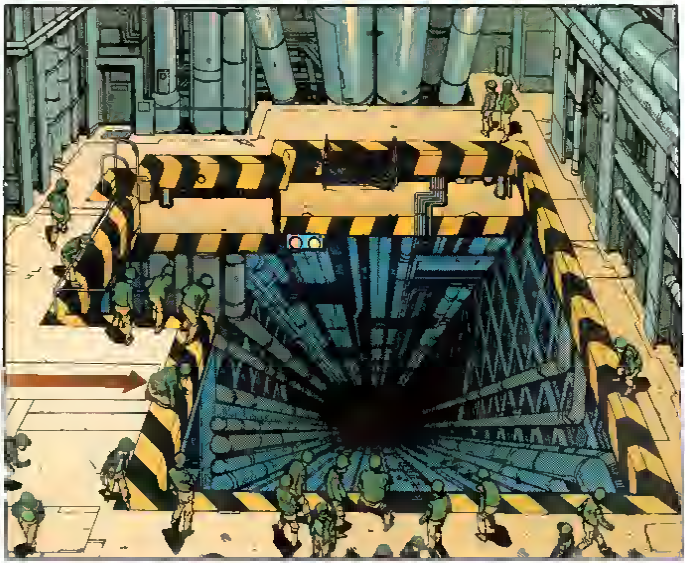
!

NOTHING PERSONAL, BUT WE CAN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES

VVVVVNNN

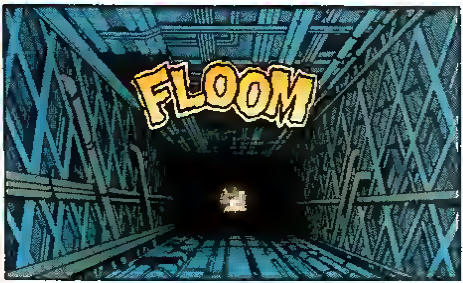

DID YOU SEE THAT, KAY? THAT SUCKER COULD CARRY SIX PASSENGERS!
YEAH, IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE HEADING FOR A CONVENTION DOWN THERE!

SO LET'S HEAD IN THE SAME DIREC-TION!
!
KANEDA, WAIT!
HMM?
VVVVNNN
GET UNDER COVER! WHAT ARE YOU HANGING AROUND FOR?
VVVNNN
KANEDAAA!!!

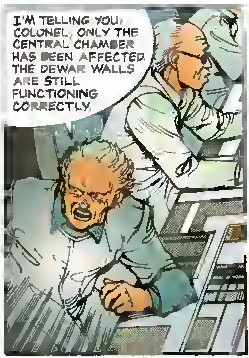


I JUST SAW ANOTHER FLASH DOWN THERE SOMETHING MUST HAVE EXPLODED

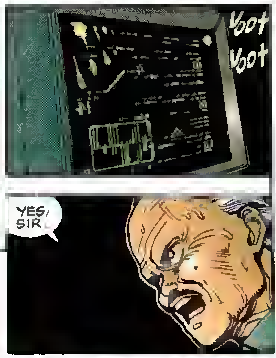
MAIN FORCE TO FLYING SQUADRON FLYING SQUADRON, DO YOU COPY? COME IN PLEASE!

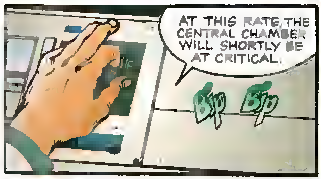

FLOOM

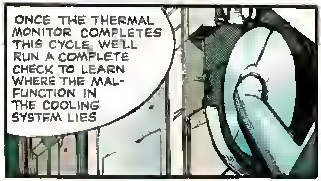
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU DON'T KNOW?


I'M TELLING YOU, COLONEL, ONLY THE CENTRAL CHAMBER HAS BEEN AFFECTED. THE DEWAR WALLS ARE STILL FUNCTIONING CORRECTLY.

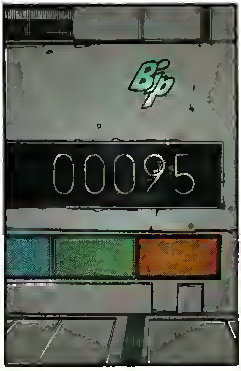
YOU MEAN THERE'S BEEN NO TEMPERATURE INCREASE AT ALL IN THE SECOND AND THIRD CHAMBERS?


Voot
Voot
YES, SIR.

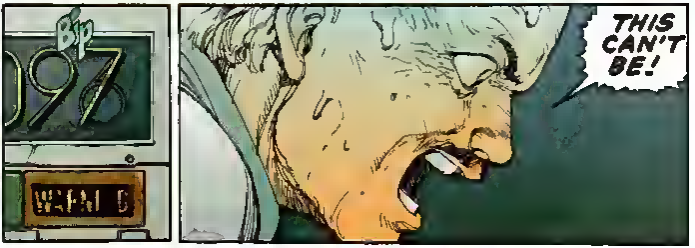

AT THIS RATE, THE CENTRAL CHAMBER WILL SHORTLY BE AT CRITICAL.
Bip
Bip


ONCE THE THERMAL MONITOR COMPLETES THIS CYCLE, WE'LL RUN A COMPLETE CHECK TO LEARN WHERE THE MALFUNCTION IN THE COOLING SYSTEM LIES

Bip


Bip
00095

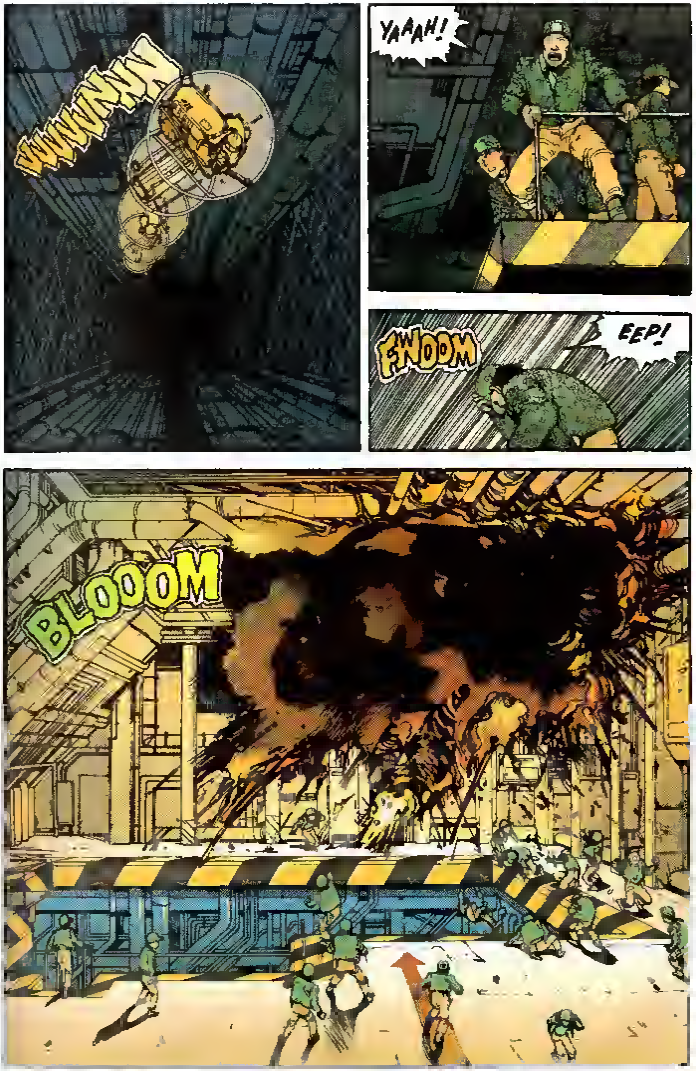
SHOOOM
HA'AHA'AHA'AHA'AHA!


Bip
097
THIS CAN'T BE!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN DOCTOR?
THERE IS NO MALFUNCTION! THE COOLING SYSTEM FOR THE CENTRAL CHAMBER IS FUNCTIONING PERFECTLY!
WHAT?!

VVVVVVNNN
HUH?
klak
VVVVVNNN
FFT
FFT
FFT
FFT

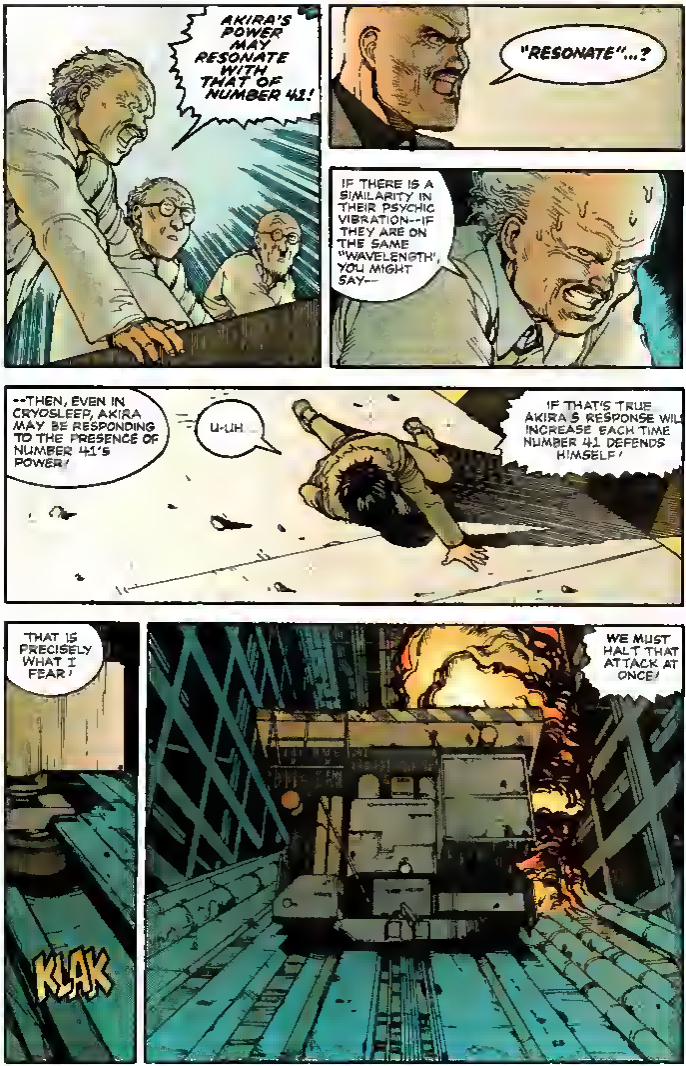
NOW!
HOP
EH--?!
HEY!!
WHOP
VVT
VVT
VVT
THOK
VVT
VVT
VVT
VVT
YEEK!!
HOW DO YOU CONTROL THIS THING?!


YAAAH!
FWOOM
EEP!
BLOOOM

VVT VVT VVT
VVVVVNNN
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
YAA--!
KRASH
AHUGH!
:GASP:
HA
HA
HA
POW

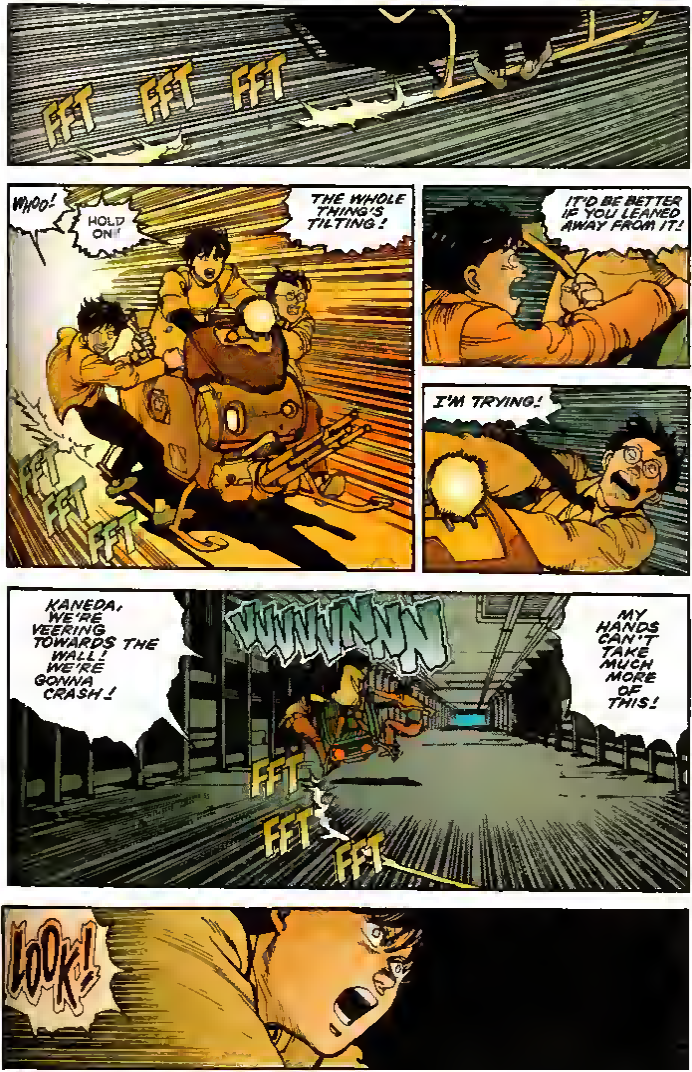
BOOOM
AAAH--!

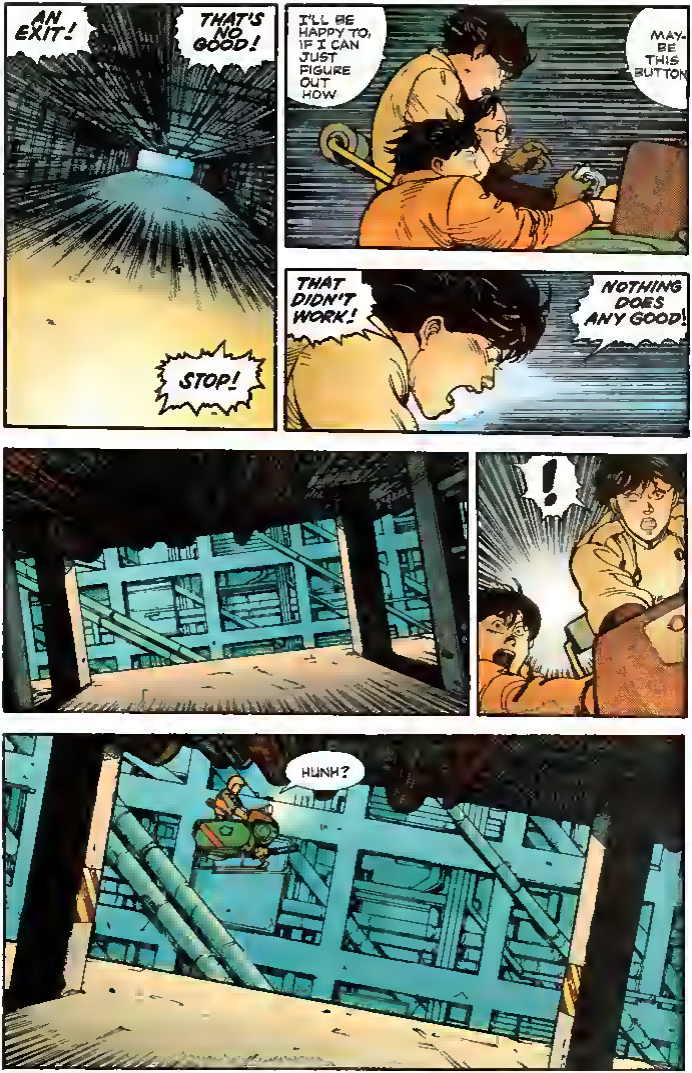
COULD...
COULD IT BE...?


AKIRA'S POWER MAY RESONATE WITH THAT OF NUMBER 41!
"RESONATE"...?
IF THERE IS A SIMILARITY IN THEIR PSYCHIC VIBRATION--IF THEY ARE ON THE SAME "WAVELENGTH", YOU MIGHT SAY--
--THEN, EVEN IN CRYOSLEEP, AKIRA MAY BE RESPONDING TO THE PRESENCE OF NUMBER 41'S POWER!
U-UH...
IF THAT'S TRUE AKIRA'S RESPONSE WILL INCREASE EACH TIME NUMBER 41 DEFENDS HIMSELF!
THAT IS PRECISELY WHAT I FEAR!
KLAK
WE MUST HALT THAT ATTACK AT ONCE!

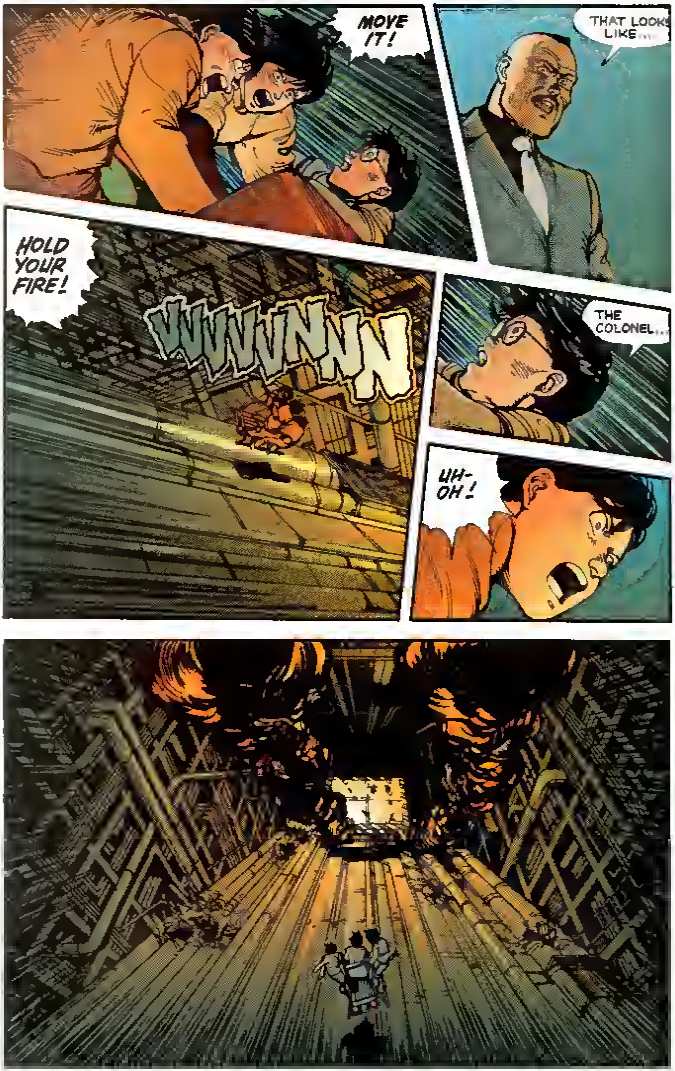
LOOKS LIKE THE ELEVATOR'S JAMMED.
SOUNDS LIKE THE TROUBLE UPSTAIRS IS OVER.
WHAT'LL WE DO, RYU?
BE CAREFUL THE STAIRS ARE BROKEN.
YOU THINK THIS'LL WORK?
OOH...

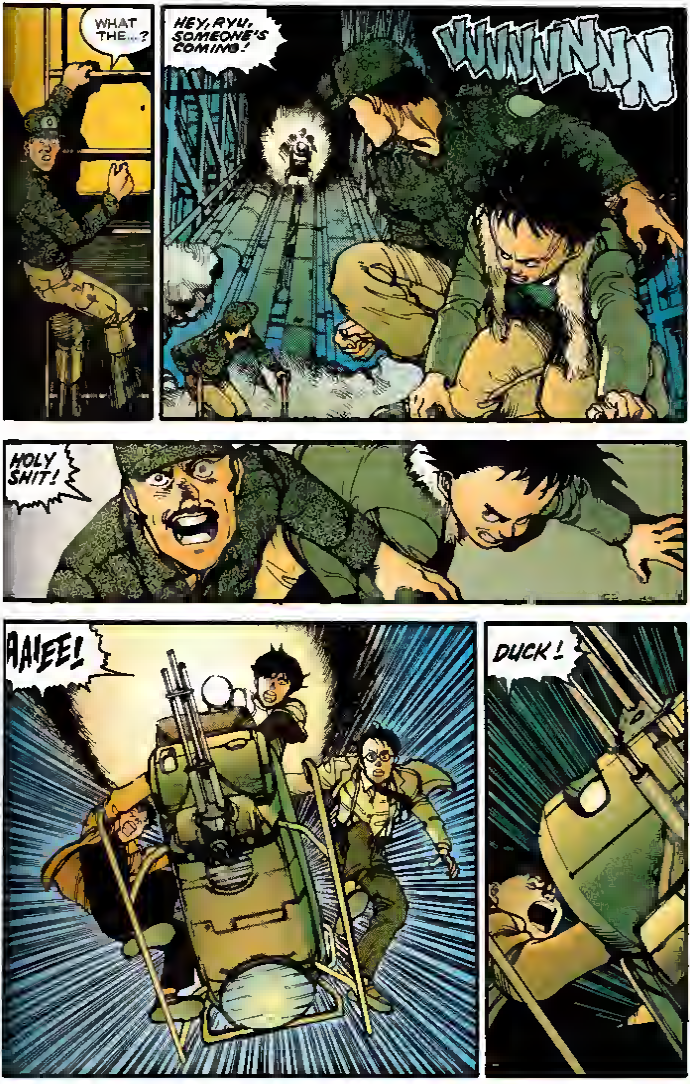
IT'S A KID!
HEY, ARE YOU OKAY?
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOU'RE HURT ANY. WHERE CAN YOU GET UP?
WHAT A MESS I'VE GOT TO BE MORE CAREFUL..
YOU MEAN YOU WERE ON THE ELEVATOR?
WWWNNN
YOU HEARD THE ORDER! HOLD YOUR FIRE!
WE HAVE TO RECAPTURE NUMBER 41 WITHOUT GETTING HIM EXCITED!


FFT FFT FFT
WHOO!
HOLD ON!
THE WHOLE THING'S TILTING!
FFT FFT FFT
IT'D BE BETTER IF YOU LEANED AWAY FROM IT!
I'M TRYING!
KANEDA, WE'RE VEERING TOWARDS THE WALL! WE'RE GONNA CRASH!
VVVVVNNN
FFT FFT FFT
MY HANDS CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE OF THIS!
LOOK!


AN EXIT!
THAT'S NO GOOD!
STOP!
I'LL BE HAPPY TO, IF I CAN JUST FIGURE OUT HOW
MAY-BE THIS BUTTON
THAT DIDN'T WORK!
NOTHING DOES ANY GOOD!
!
HUNH?

YAAAAH!
VVVVVNNN
WHAT WAS THAT?
YEEEK!
IT IS THEM!


MOVE IT!
THAT LOOKS LIKE...
HOLD YOUR FIRE!
VVVVVNNN
THE COLONEL...
UH-OH!

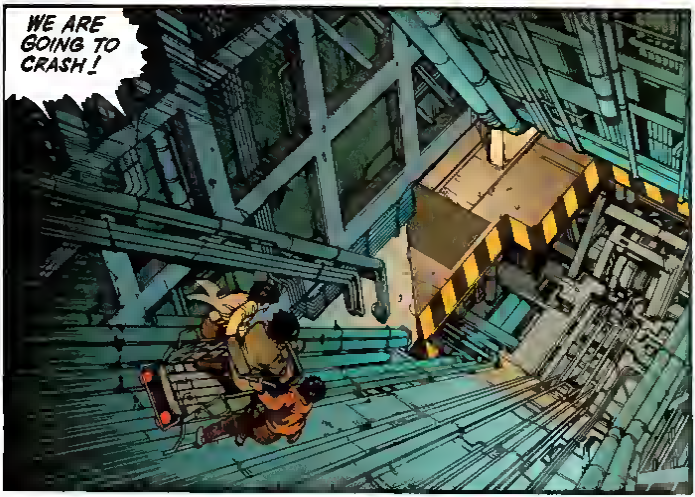

WHAT THE...?
HEY, RYU, SOMEONE'S COMING!
VVVVVNNN
HOLY SHIT!
AAIEE!
DUCK!

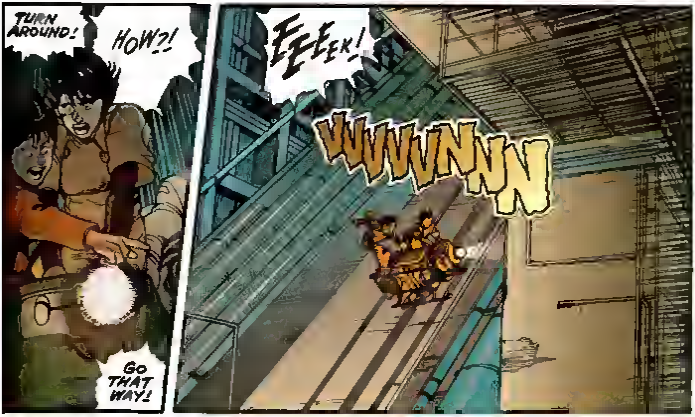
VVVVRRRN
GASP!
OH!
...KAY...?
THAT MAN WE PASSED...
RYUU!
KAY!

TURN THIS THING AROUND!
ARE YOU CRAZY? I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO STOP IT!
THAT... THAT LOOKED LIKE KANEDA. WHAT WOULD KANEDA BE DOING HERE?
HUNH?
RYU!!
!

NUMBER 41, YOU MUST LISTEN TO ME!
SCREW THAT
ZAP
KRUNCH
WHAT?!
FWOOM
EYAGH
GOONG

AAAAAA
AAAAA


WE ARE GOING TO CRASH!


TURN AROUND!
HOW?!
GO THAT WAY!
EEEEEK!
VVVVVNNN

VUVVVNNN
WE'RE LOSING ALTITUDE! BRING THE NOSE UP!
VVT
YIPE!
FFT
FFT
IT WON'T COME UP!
WAAAH!
HELP!
REEEEEE
KAY!

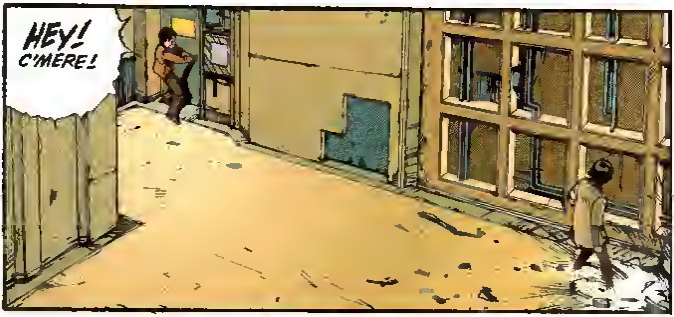
FFT FFT FFT FFT
BOOOOM
I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO RYU!
ARE YOU OKAY?!
OF COURSE I'M OKAY!

WE'VE GOT TO REACH RYU!
SHOOM
OOG.
BLOOEY
IF THEY'RE IN THE ELEVATOR SHAFT, THEN RYU'S A SITTING DUCK!
DON'T LOOK NOW BUT SO ARE WE.
WE'VE GOT TO GET UNDE COVER

OH, NO!
THE PIPELINE IS ON FIRE!
PULL BACK, YOU IDIOTS! YOU'RE STIMULATING NUMBER 41!

HEH

I DON'T GET IT. WHY ARE THEY RETREATING?

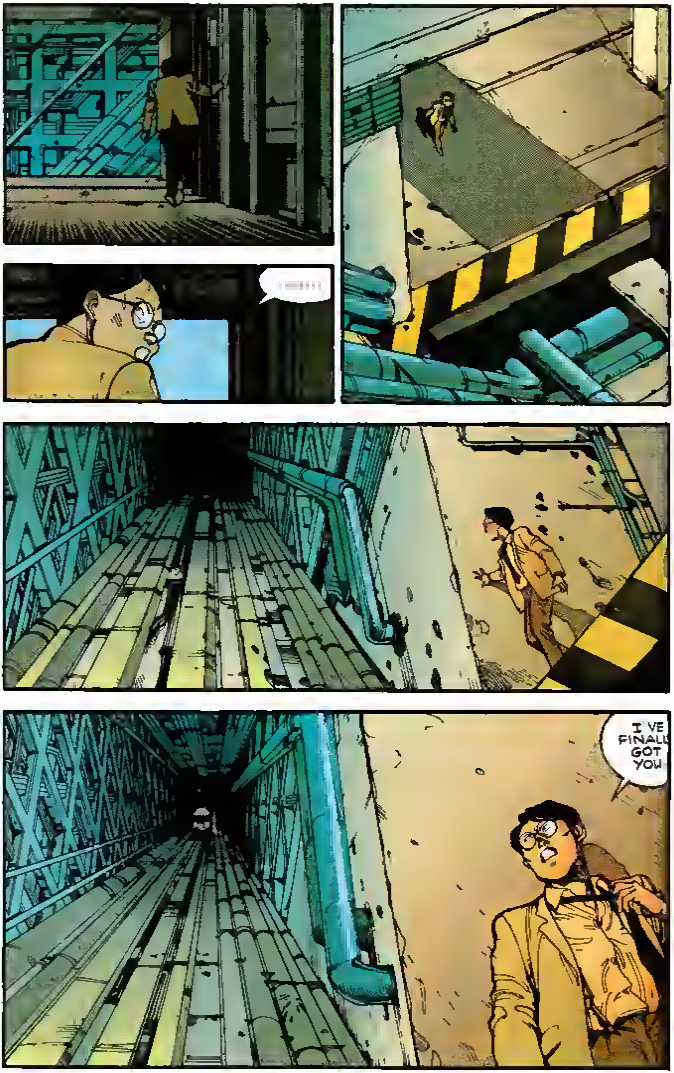

HEY! C'MERE!

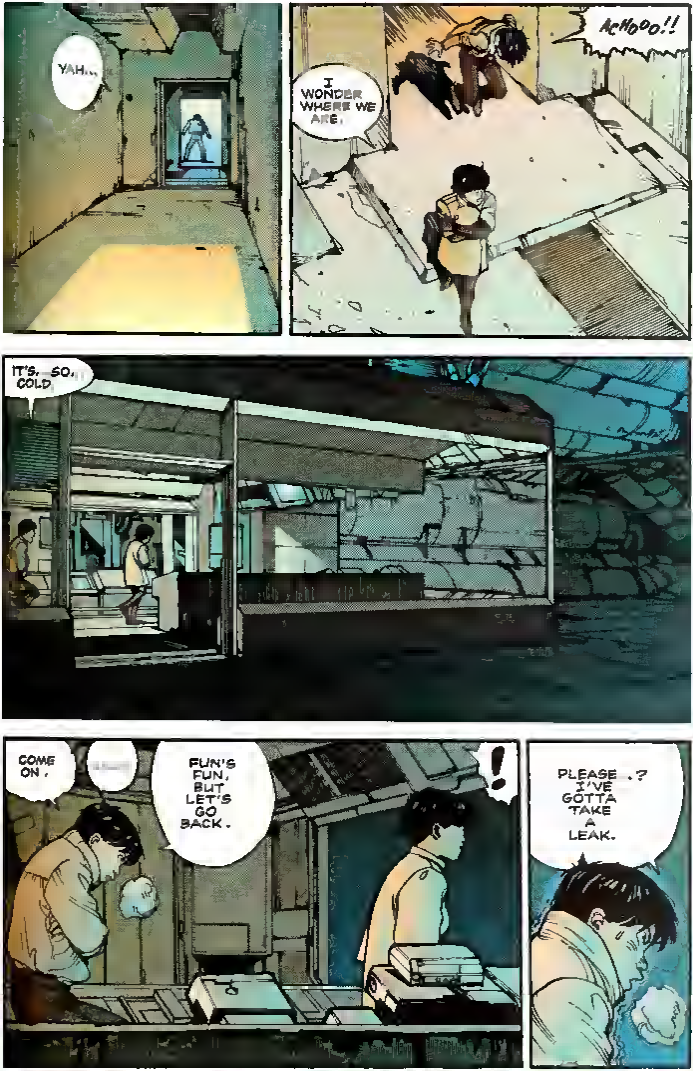
I THINK I CAN GET IT OPEN.
BAM
BAM

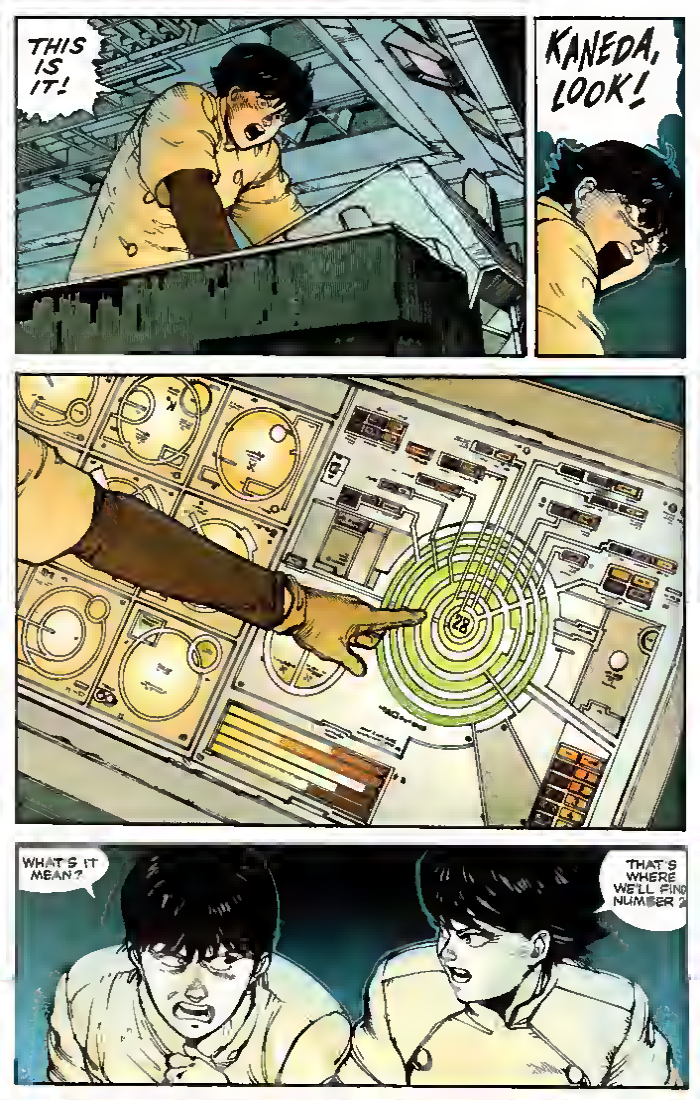
BANG

FIND SOMETHIN I CAN BREAK IT DOWN WITH

WOK
WAK
YARRGHH!
WOOOOOOOO
WHOA!
IT'S FREEZING IN HERE!
WOOOOO.
AAK
N-NOW WHAT...?
WE KEEP GOING.

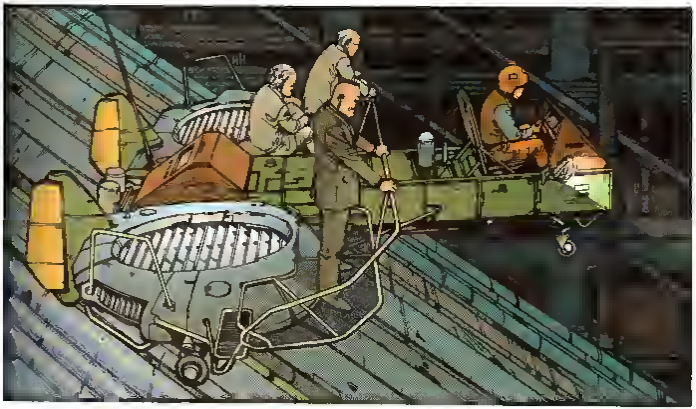

I'VE FINALLY GOT YOU


YAH...
I WONDER WHERE WE ARE.
AcHoOo!!
IT'S, SO, COLD.
COME ON.
FUN'S FUN, BUT LET'S GO BACK.
!
PLEASE .? I'VE GOTTA TAKE A LEAK.


THIS IS IT!
KANEDA, LOOK!
28
WHAT'S IT MEAN?
THAT'S WHERE WE'LL FIND NUMBER 2

GONG
GOONG
GOOONG
OONG

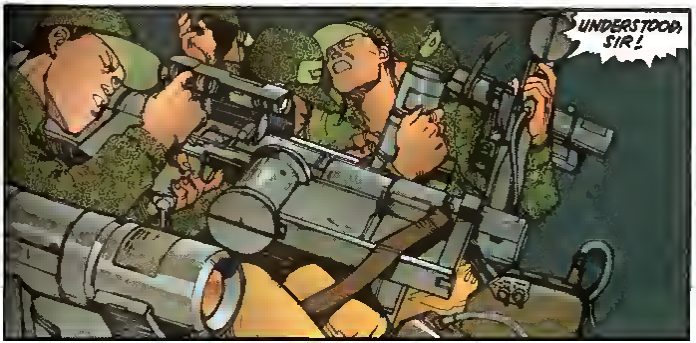
YOU MEAN THAT'S WHERE AKIRA IS?
EXACTLY! JUST LIKE THAT LITTLE GIRL TOLD US!
.....?
EXCUSE ME FOR ASKING, BUT... JUST WHAT THE HELL IS THIS "AKIRA", ANYWAY?
THAT'S WHAT WE'RE HERE TO FIND OUT.
THIS SET UP LOOKS LIKE A MAZE
WITH LUCK, WE MIGHT FIND AKIRA...
BUT WE COULD ALSO WIND UP FACE TO FACE WITH THAT STUPID COLONEL AGAIN.

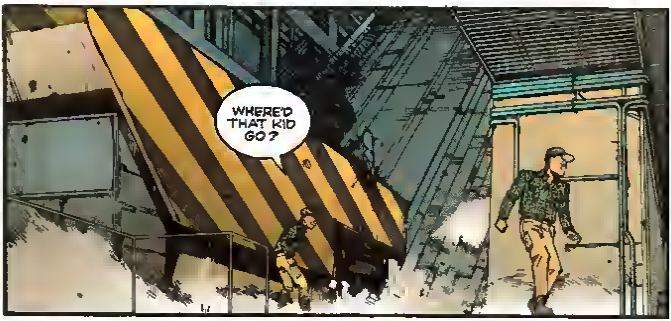


WHILE I'M ALIVE, NO ONE IS TO SHOOT WITHOUT MY DIRECT ORDER.

IF I AM KILLED, OR FOR ANY REASON YOU ARE FORCED TO FIRE...
...YOU MUST KILL HIM WITH THE FIRST SHOT.

THERE WILL BE NO SECOND CHANCES WITH NUMBER 41.
IS THAT UNDERSTOOD?

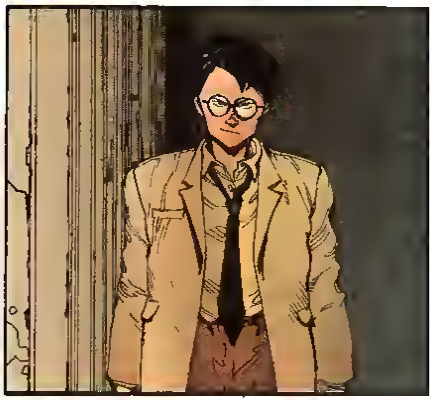

UNDERSTOOD, SIR!


WHERE'D THAT KID GO?

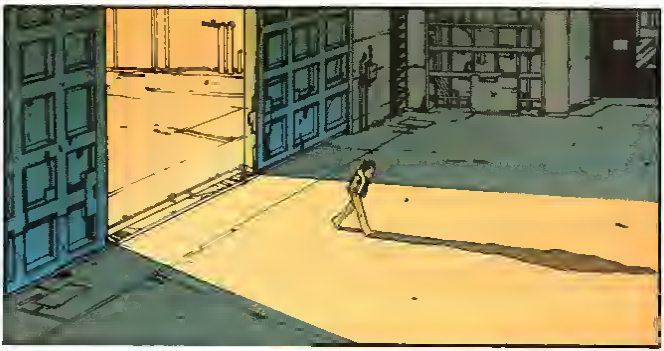
HE WAS JUST HERE
HOLD IT!

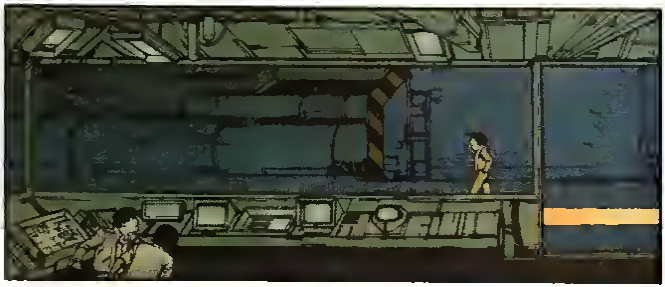
THERE'S SOME-ONE THERE!

IS IT THE KID?
NO!



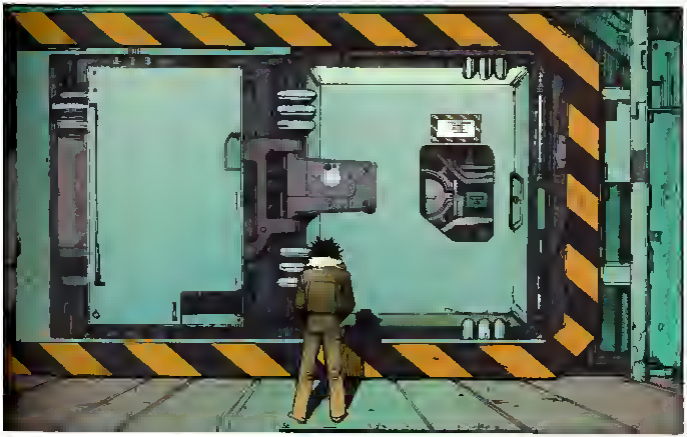
GONG
ONG
HUNH?!

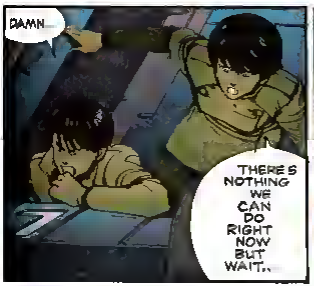




TETSUO...
SHH...

tak



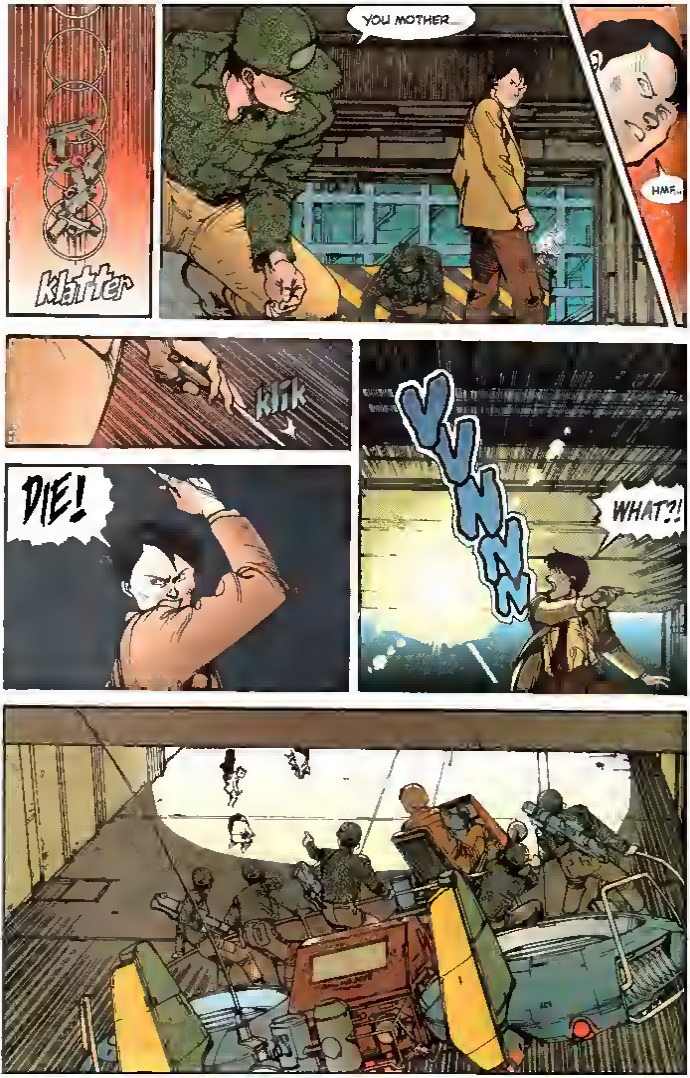

DAMN...
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO RIGHT NOW BUT WAIT..

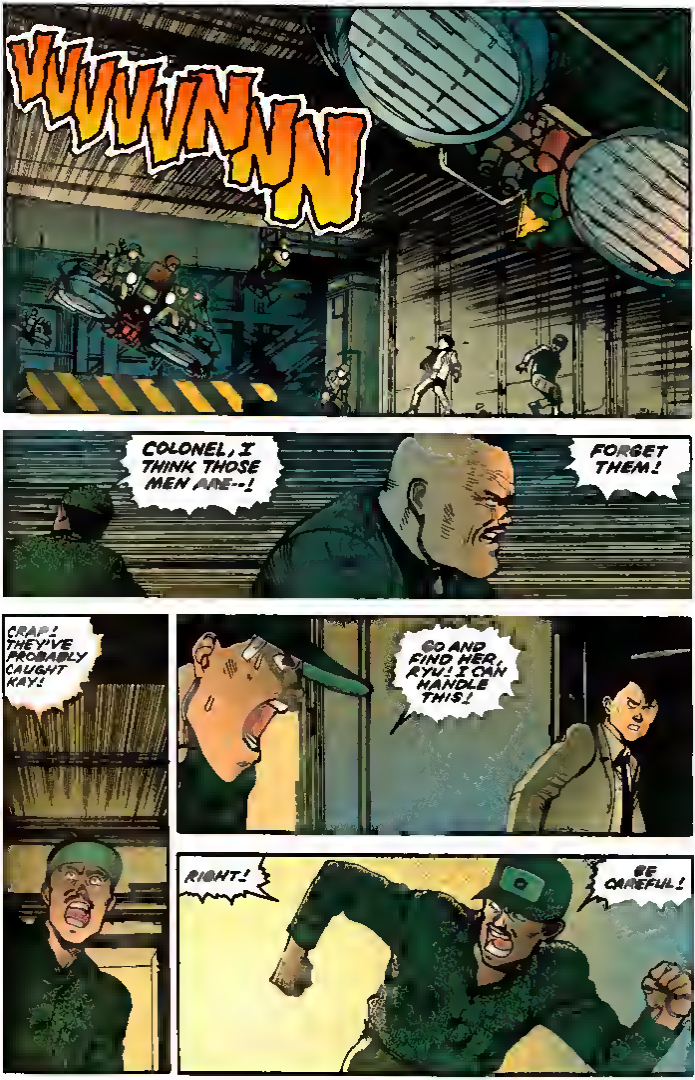
BUT.. I WONDER IF...

...THAT DOOR...

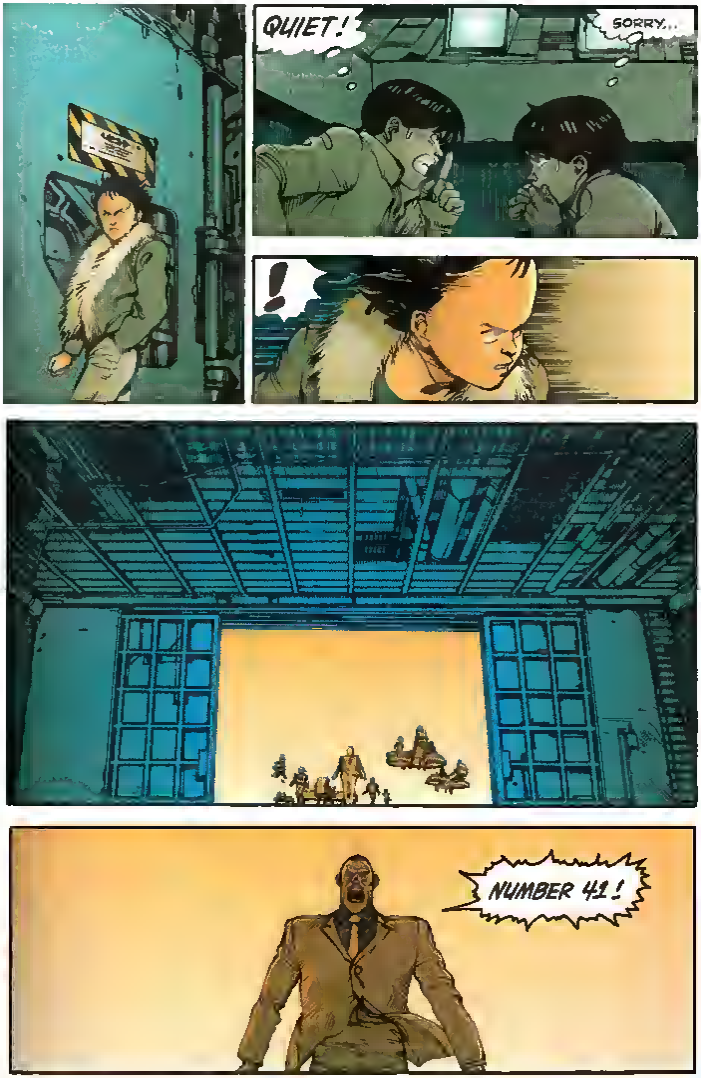
WHO ARE YOU ?!
THAT'S NO CONCERN OF YOURS I HAVE SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS WITH THE MAN BEHIND YOU.
YOU-?!
I LEFT YOU DEAD!
B-BUT IT CAN'T BE!
AND NOW...
...IT'S YOUR TURN

WWNNN
EH...?
TAK
!
KRAK
THDM
:GAK:
UH...
IF YOU'RE GONNA SHOOT ME, ACT FAST!
BOP


Klatter
YOU MOTHER...
HAAF..
klik
DIE!
VVNNN
WHAT?!

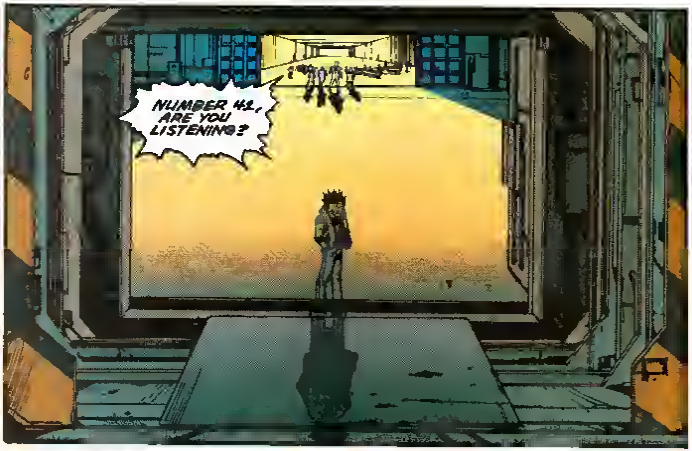

VVVVVNNN
COLONEL, I THINK THOSE MEN ARE--!
FORGET THEM!
CRAP! THEY'VE PROBABLY CAUGHT KAY!
GO AND FIND HER, RYU! I CAN HANDLE THIS!
RIGHT!
BE CAREFUL!

SHOOOM
SHOOOM
KAGOONG
BEEEEEEEP
YIEEE!!
HUNH?


QUIET!
SORRY...
!
NUMBER 41!

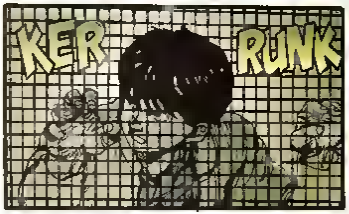
GONG
LET'S GO, DOCTOR
GONG
ONG
ONG
NUMBER 41, WAIT! LISTEN TO ME!
.....
NUMBER 41... TETSUO. PLEASE DON'T DO THIS. DON'T DISTURB AKIRA.
ONCE HE'S AWAKE, NO ONE CAN CONTROL HIM.

GONG
GONG
IT'S ALREADY BEGUN. AKIRA IS RESPONDING TO YOUR PRESENCE.
YOU MUST WITHDRAW WITHOUT AROUSING HIM FURTHER.
HE REPRESENTS A POWER BEYOND YOUR UNDERSTANDING! ONCE YOU AWAKEN HIM, IT WILL BE TOO LATE.
TURN BACK WHILE YOU STILL HAVE THAT CHOICE!
NUMBER 41...


NUMBER 41, ARE YOU LISTENING?

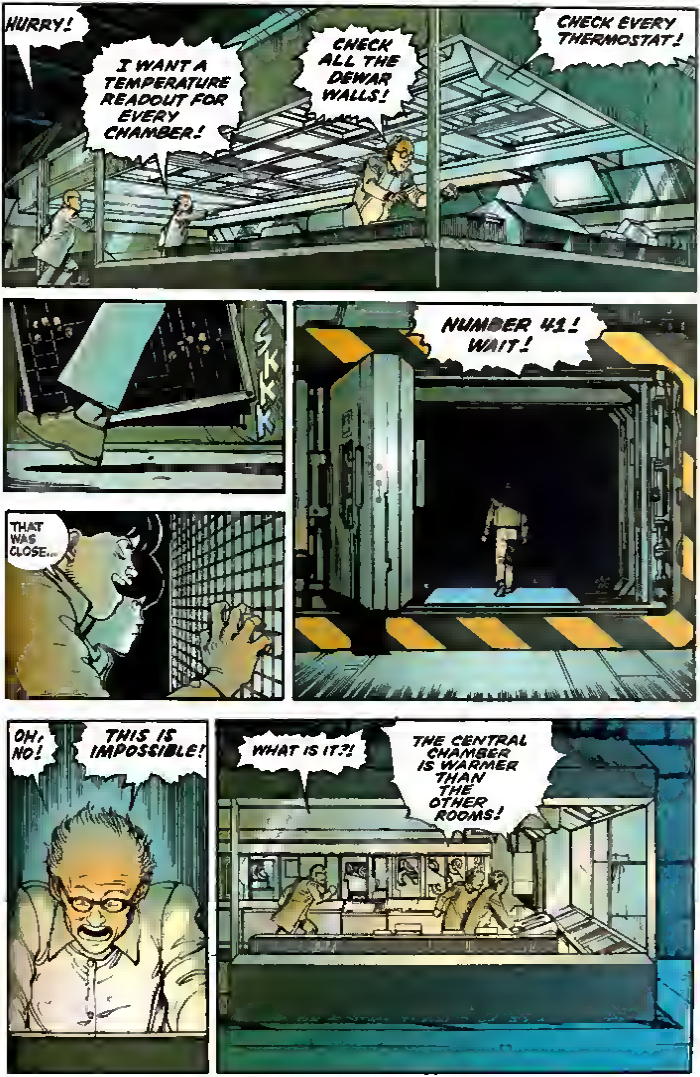
DOCTOR, RETURN TO THE CONTROL ROOM.

I WANT A STATUS REPORT ON AKIRA!
YESSIR!
TAK

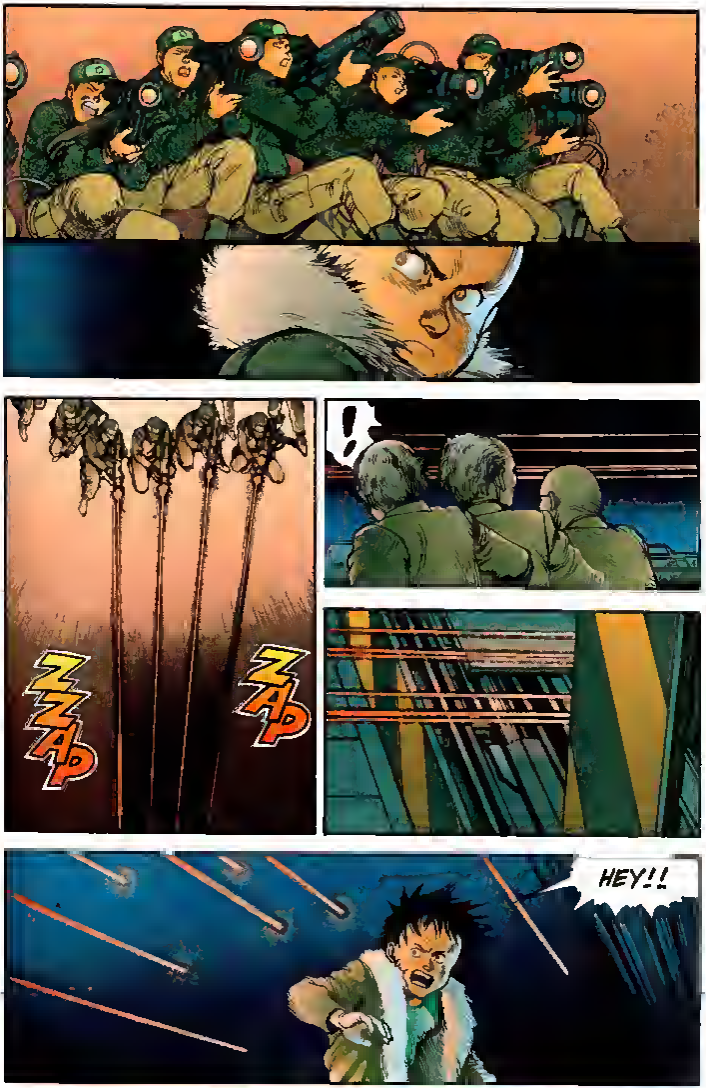

KER
RUNK

HE'S COMIN

SHH!!

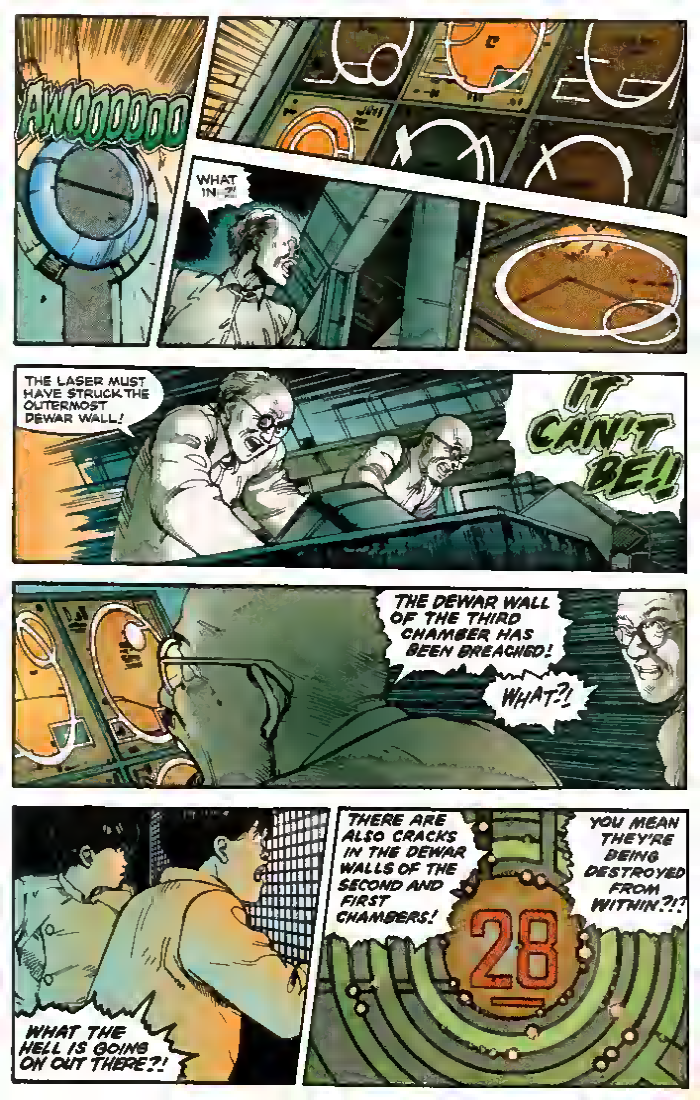

HURRY!
I WANT A TEMPERATURE READOUT FOR EVERY CHAMBER!
CHECK ALL THE DEWAR WALLS!
CHECK EVERY THERMOSTAT!
SKKK
NUMBER 41! WAIT!
THAT WAS CLOSE...
OH, NO!
THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE!
WHAT IS IT?!
THE CENTRAL CHAMBER IS WARMER THAN THE OTHER ROOMS!

TETSUO!!
IS HE AWAKE
BAH...
28
COLONEL!
FIRE


ZZAP
ZAP
!
HEY!!

ZZZNNN
ACK--!
STOP IT!
YIPE!
ZZIP
ZZIP
K-KANEDA

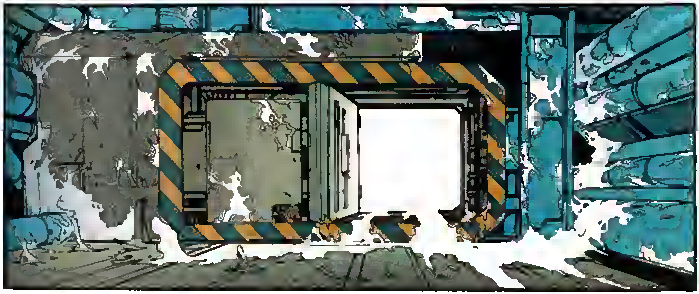
SHHHT SHHT
AAH...
BLAAAT
AMRA


AWOOOOOO
WHAT IN...?
THE LASER MUST HAVE STRUCK THE OUTERMOST DEWAR WALL!
IT CAN'T BE!!
THE DEWAR WALL OF THE THIRD CHAMBER HAS BEEN BREACHED!
WHAT?!
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON OUT THERE?!
THERE ARE ALSO CRACKS IN THE DEWAR WALLS OF THE SECOND AND FIRST CHAMBERS!
YOU MEAN THEY'RE BEING DESTROYED FROM WITHIN?!?
28

GONG ONG ONG
YAGH!
TAKE CAREFUL AIM! WE CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS HIM!
SHOOOM
DAMN!
HUNH?

SHOOOOM

IT'S ALREADY OVER.



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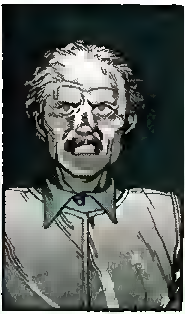
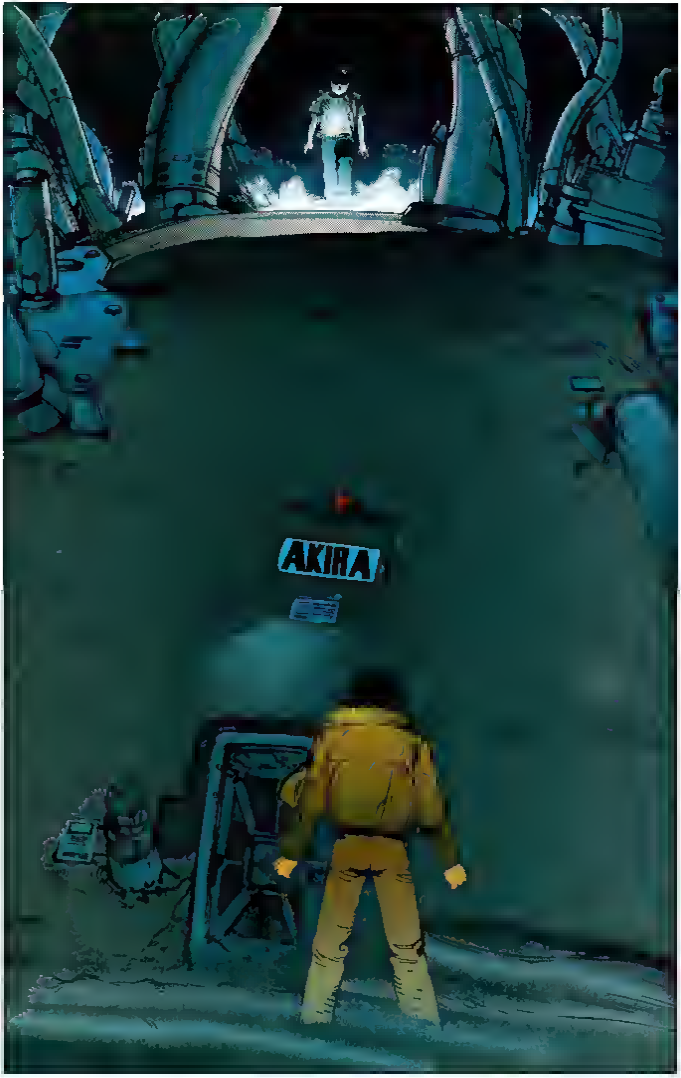
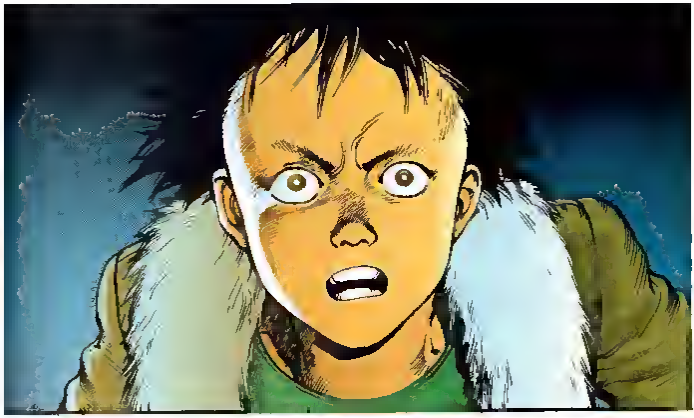
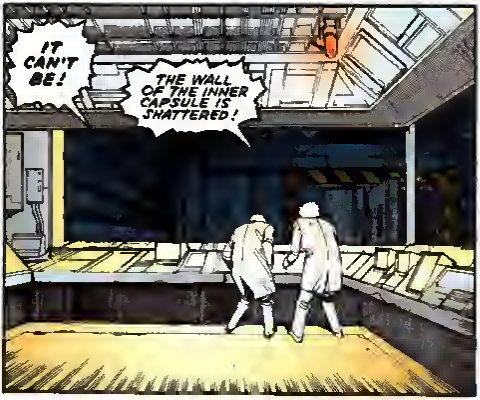
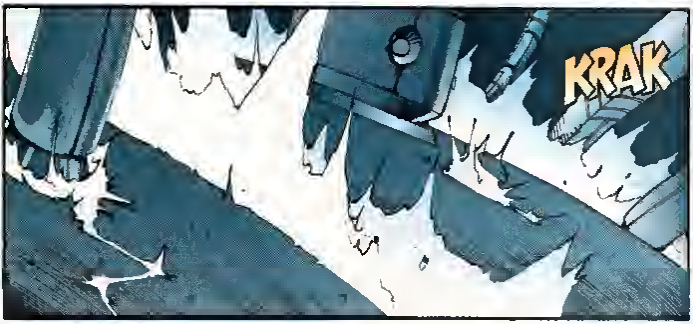



AKIRA




IT CAN'T BE!
THE WALL OF THE INNER CAPSULE IS SHATTERED!

WHAT?!

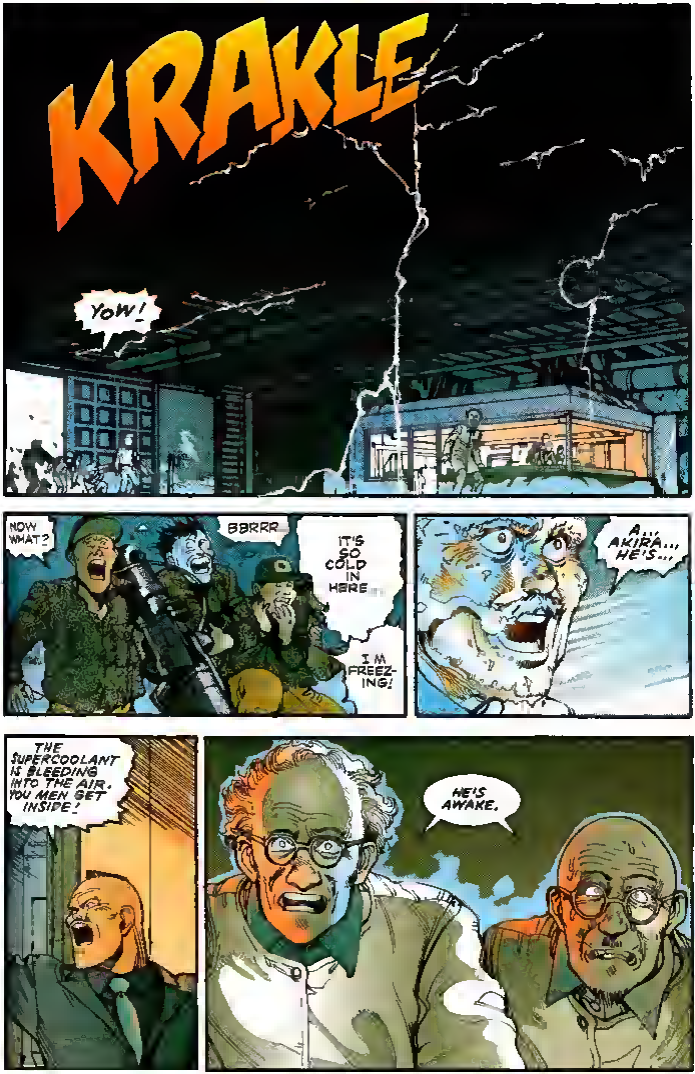

KRAK

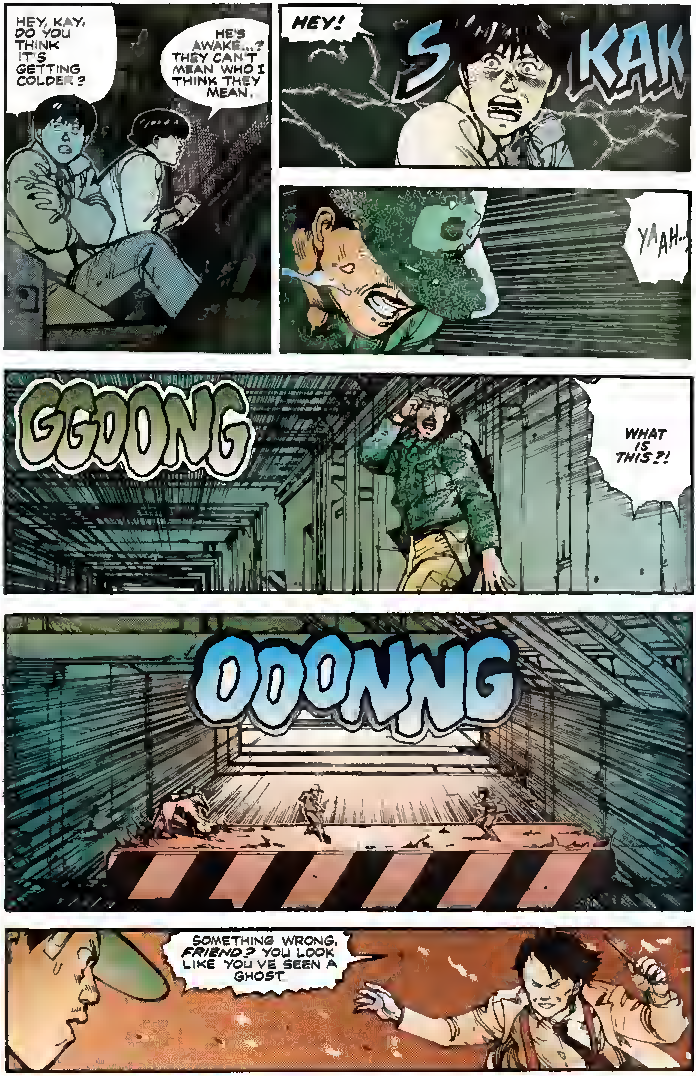
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO FIX IT?!
COLONEL, WE... WE... IT...

!
OH--!
splut

SSSSSHHHHH
SSSSHHHHH
C-COLD--!
.....
AAH...A...!

ARE YOU AKIRA?!


KRAKLE
YOW!
NOW WHAT?
BRRRR
IT'S SO COLD IN HERE
I'M FREEZING!
A... AKIRA... HE'S...
THE SUPERCOOLANT IS BLEEDING INTO THE AIR. YOU MEN GET INSIDE!
HE'S AWAKE.


HEY, KAY. DO YOU THINK IT'S GETTING COLDER?
HE'S AWAKE...? THEY CAN'T MEAN WHO I THINK THEY MEAN.
HEY!
S KAK
YAAH...
GGOONG
WHAT IS THIS?!
OOONNG
SOMETHING WRONG, FRIEND? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE SEEN A GHOST

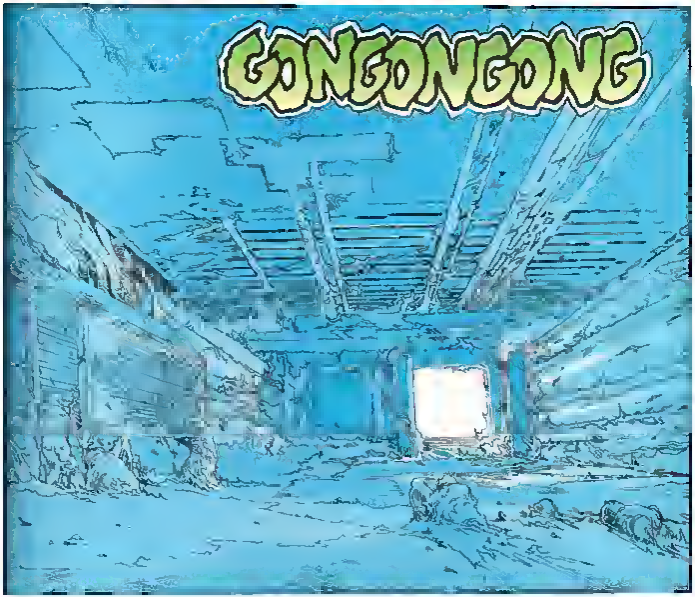
LOWER THE SHIELDS BEFORE WE ALL FREEZE TO DEATH!
BUT, COLONEL, THE DOCTOR IS STILL OUTSIDE!
WHAT--?!
...Ah...
SSHUUK
AAIEE!

DON'T PANIC!
THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS ARE SIMPLY REACTING TO THE CHARGE OF SUPERCOOLED AIR!
EEK!
ZZOT
!
PLOK
CODE SEVEN EMERGENCY ALARM--!
HALT! GET AWAY FROM THERE!
OH
RRAK
FWOOM

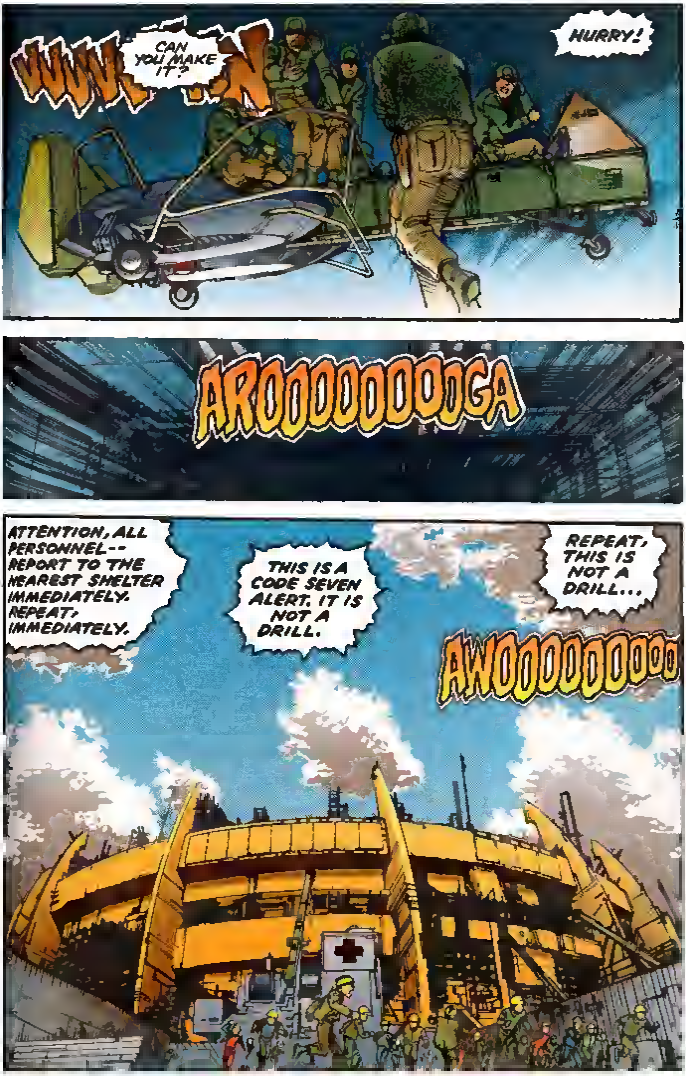
YOU IMBE-CILE!
SLAM
OUCH!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO PANIC! THIS MAY NOT EVEN BE AKIRA!
IT IS!
SHO DOM
GONGONGONG
VICTOR...
DELUXE

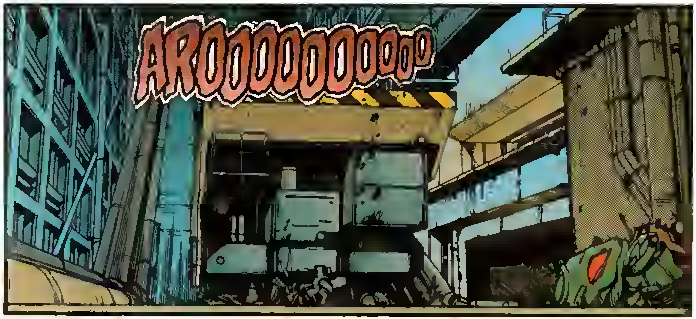
SHOOOOO

DOCTOOOR--!
KLANKLANKLANG

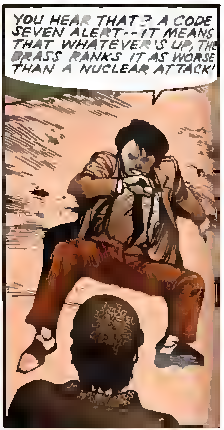

GONGONGONG

COLONEL!
GONGONGONG
IT'S TOO LATE! RETREAT!
THE BULK-HEAD DOOR'S CLOSING!
AWOO
HURRY!
DOO
COLD'S JAMMED THE CONTROLS--!
OONG
FWOOM
WHOOSH!
UUH..
WHO'S THAT?
LOOKS LIKE ONE OF OUR MEN!
WVNN
HUH?


WWWHOOOSH
CAN YOU MAKE IT?
HURRY!
AROOOOOOOGA
ATTENTION, ALL PERSONNEL--REPORT TO THE NEAREST SHELTER IMMEDIATELY. REPEAT, IMMEDIATELY.
THIS IS A CODE SEVEN ALERT. IT IS NOT A DRILL.
REPEAT, THIS IS NOT A DRILL...
AWOOOOOOOO

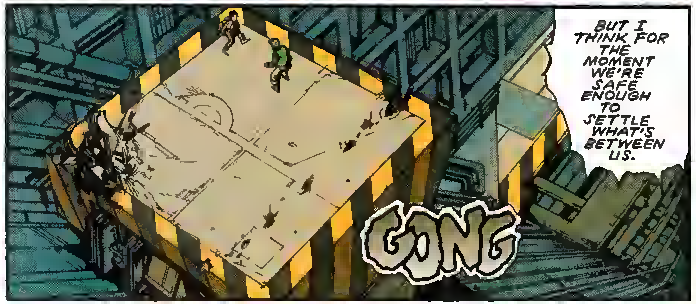

AROOOOOOOOO

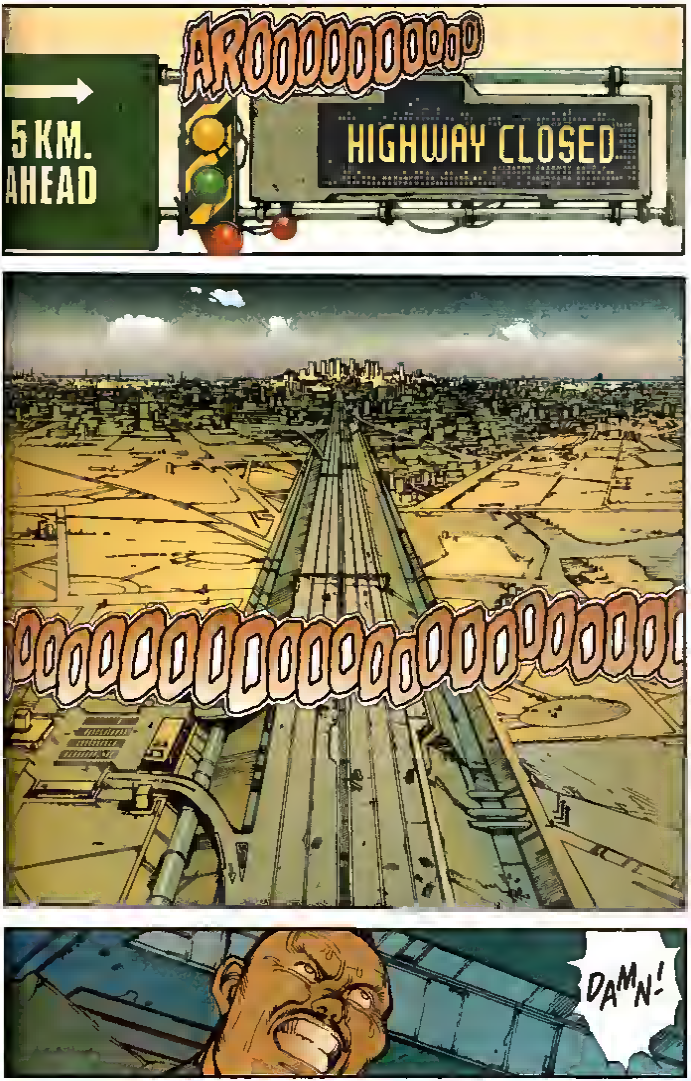
WOK

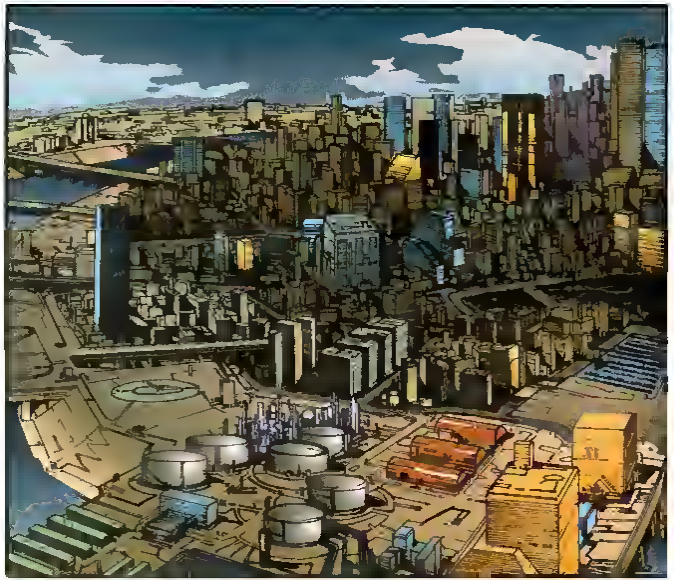

YOU HEAR THAT? A CODE SEVEN ALERT--IT MEANS THAT WHATEVER'S UP, THE BRASS RANKS IT AS WORSE THAN A NUCLEAR ATTACK!

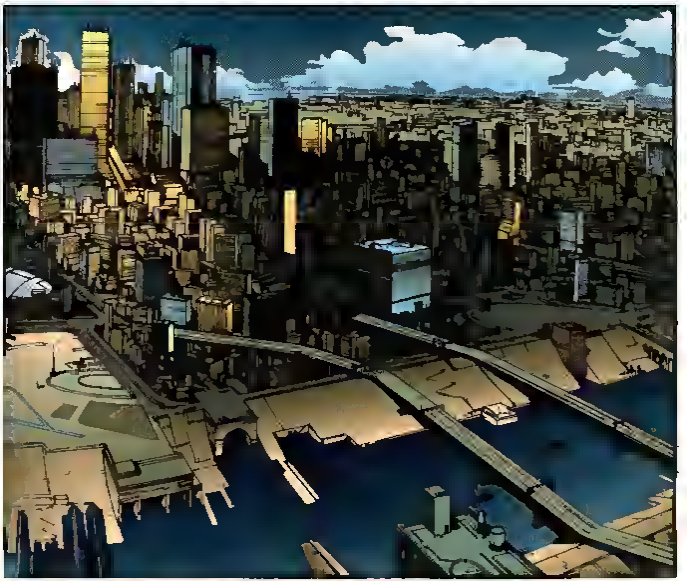
GONG

WE'RE MOVING!

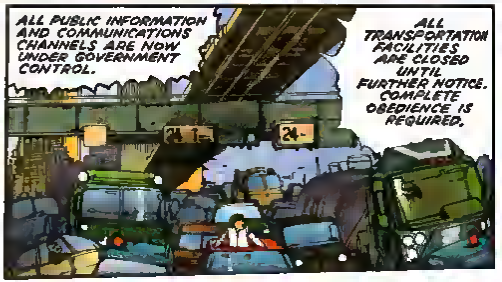

BUT I THINK FOR THE MOMENT WE'RE SAFE ENOUGH TO SETTLE WHAT'S BETWEEN US.
GONG


5 KM.
AHEAD
AROOOOOOOOO
HIGHWAY CLOSED
DAMN!



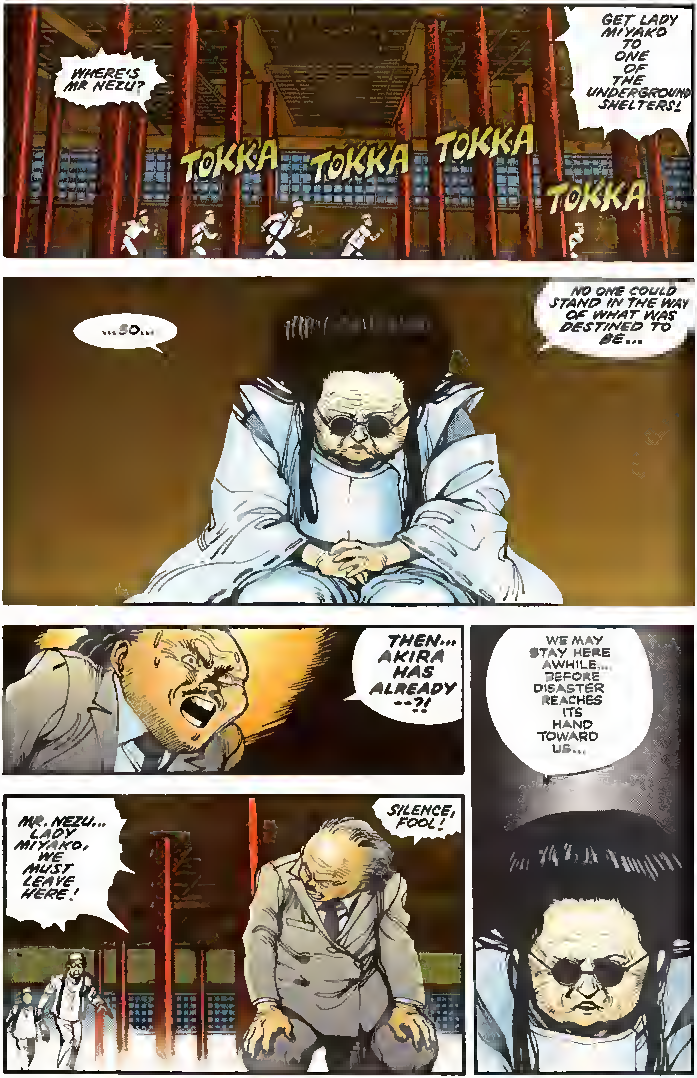


ATTENTION ALL CITIZENS! THIS IS A CODE SEVEN ALERT. A STATE OF DIRE EMERGENCY EXISTS.

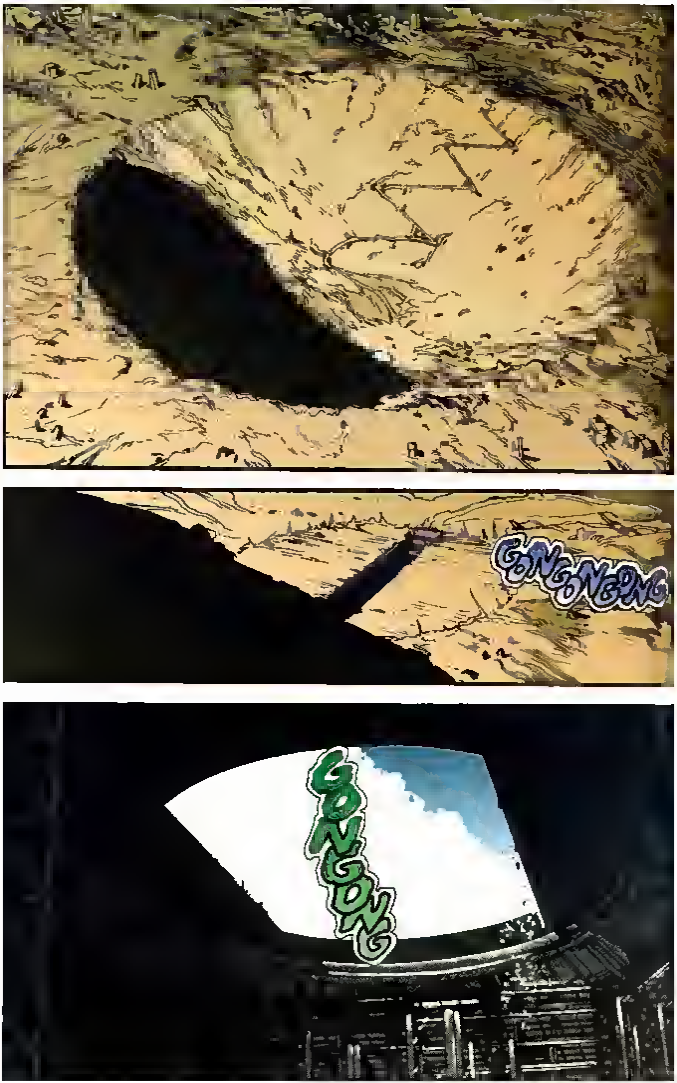

ALL PUBLIC INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS ARE NOW UNDER GOVERNMENT CONTROL.
ALL TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES ARE CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. COMPLETE OBEDIENCE IS REQUIRED.

KRASH

REPORT AT ONCE TO THE NEAREST EMERGENCY SHELTER. THERE ARE TEN MINUTES REMAINING UNTIL SHELTER DOORS ARE AUTOMATICALLY CLOSED!

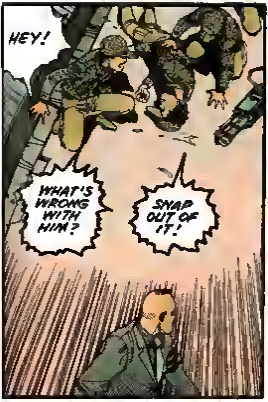

WHERE'S MR NEZU?
TOKKA TOKKA TOKKA TOKKA
GET LADY MIYAKO TO ONE OF THE UNDERGROUND SHELTERS!
...SO...
NO ONE COULD STAND IN THE WAY OF WHAT WAS DESTINED TO BE...
THEN... AKIRA HAS ALREADY --?!
WE MAY STAY HERE AWHILE... BEFORE DISASTER REACHES ITS HAND TOWARD US...
MR. NEZU... LADY MIYAKO, WE MUST LEAVE HERE!
SILENCE, FOOL!

...OUR...AKIRA...
HEYY!
HEE-HELP!
MOOMOOSE!
OPEN THE DOO-OOR!


GONGONGONG
GONGONG

GONG
ONG
ONG
COLONEL--
LOOK!
THE MAIN HATCH IS OPENING!
IMPOSSIBLE! NO ONE'S BEEN NEAR THOSE CONTROLS.
I...I'M SORRY, SIR. IT SEEMS THE ELECTRICAL DISCHARGE CAUSED BY THE EXTREME COLD HAS SHORTED OUT THE CONTROLS.
GRR...
BASHOOM
NOW WHAT?!

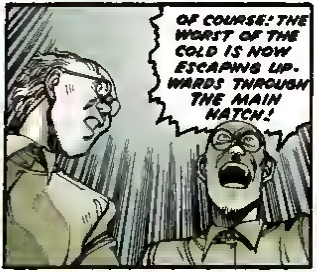
GOOONG
I NEVER EXPECTED TO FIND A DIRECT EXIT WAY DOWN HERE
DON'T JUST STAND THERE, LET'S USE IT...
SHHHMMM
...BEFORE WE FREEZE OUR ASSES OFF

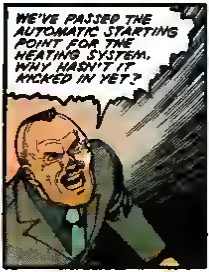

HEY!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
SNAP OUT OF IT!

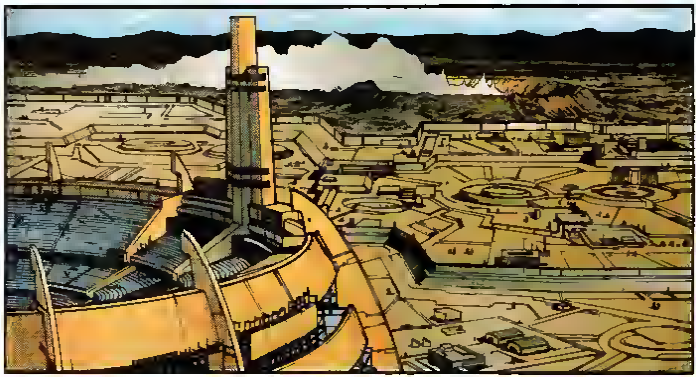
chatter chatter
IF WE STAY HERE WE'LL ALL FREEZE!
COLONEL!

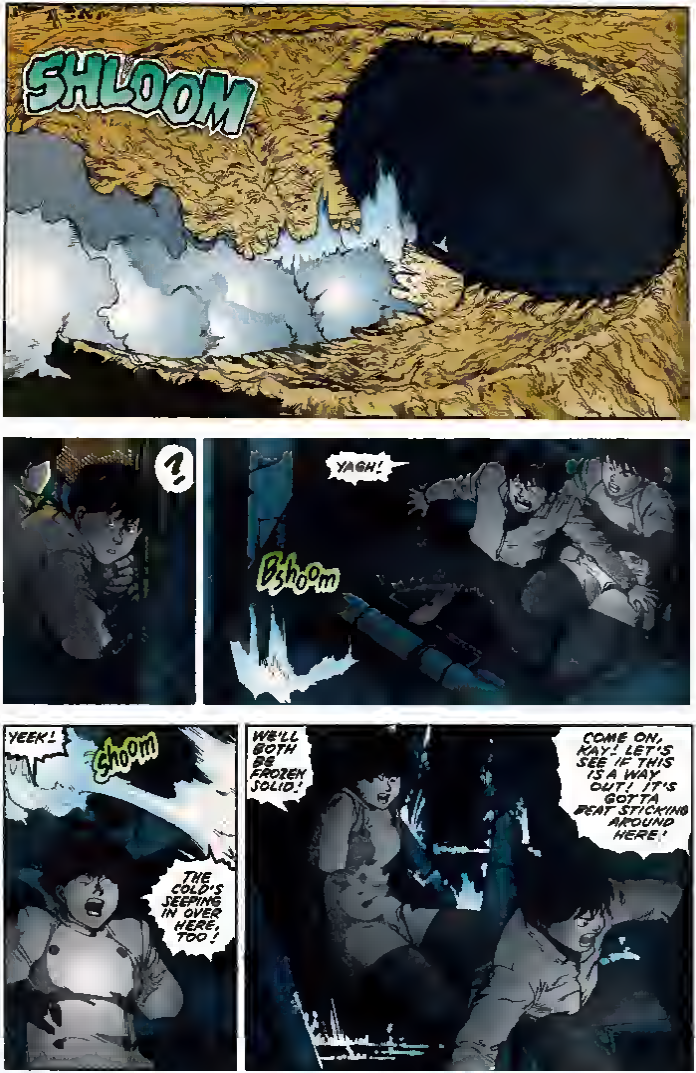
WHAT'S THE TEMPERATURE IN HERE?
CURRENTLY TWENTY-EIGHT NO, TWENTY NINE BELOW ZERO, CENTIGRADE THIRTY BELOW.

WAIT! THE TEMPERATURE IS STARTING TO STABILIZE.


OF COURSE! THE WORST OF THE COLD IS NOW ESCAPING UPWARDS THROUGH THE MAIN HATCH!


WE'VE PASSED THE AUTOMATIC STARTING POINT FOR THE HEATING SYSTEM. WHY HASN'T IT KICKED IN YET?




SHLOOM
?
YAGH!
BSHOOM
YEEK!
SHOOM
THE COLD'S SEEPING IN OVER HERE, TOO!
WE'LL BOTH BE FROZEN SOLID!
COME ON, KAY! LET'S SEE IF THIS IS A WAY OUT! IT'S GOTTA BEAT STICKING AROUND HERE!

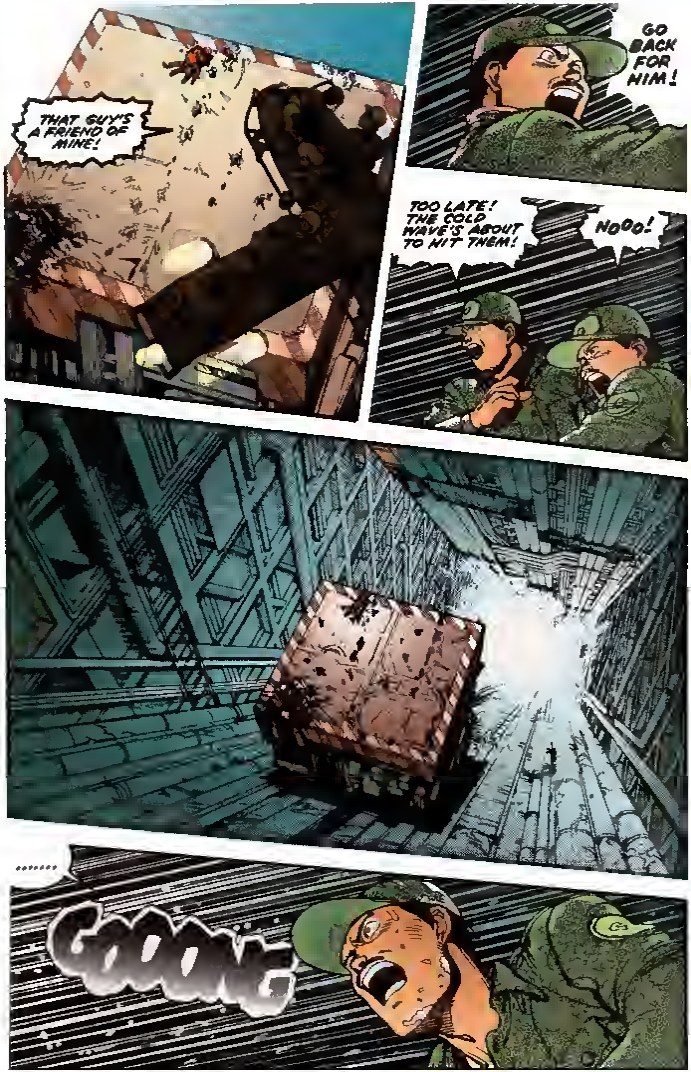
IT'S CLOSING--!
NOOO!
GONG
ONG
ONG
GONG
ONG
UWAAGH!
WWNNN
DON'T QUIT ON US NOW, BABY!
HOLD HER STEADY!
WE'VE LOST THE RIGHT ENGINE!
SHIT!
GONG
ONG
WWWWNNN

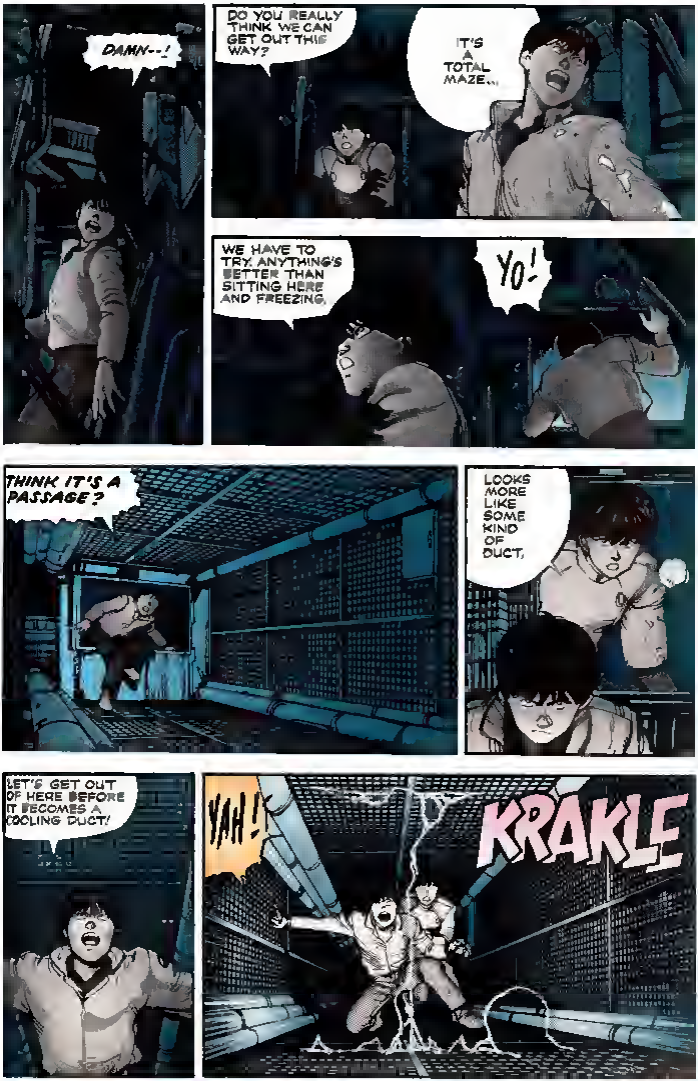
GONG
GONG
ONG
AARGH!
HYAAH!
BOK
SWAK
GUOK

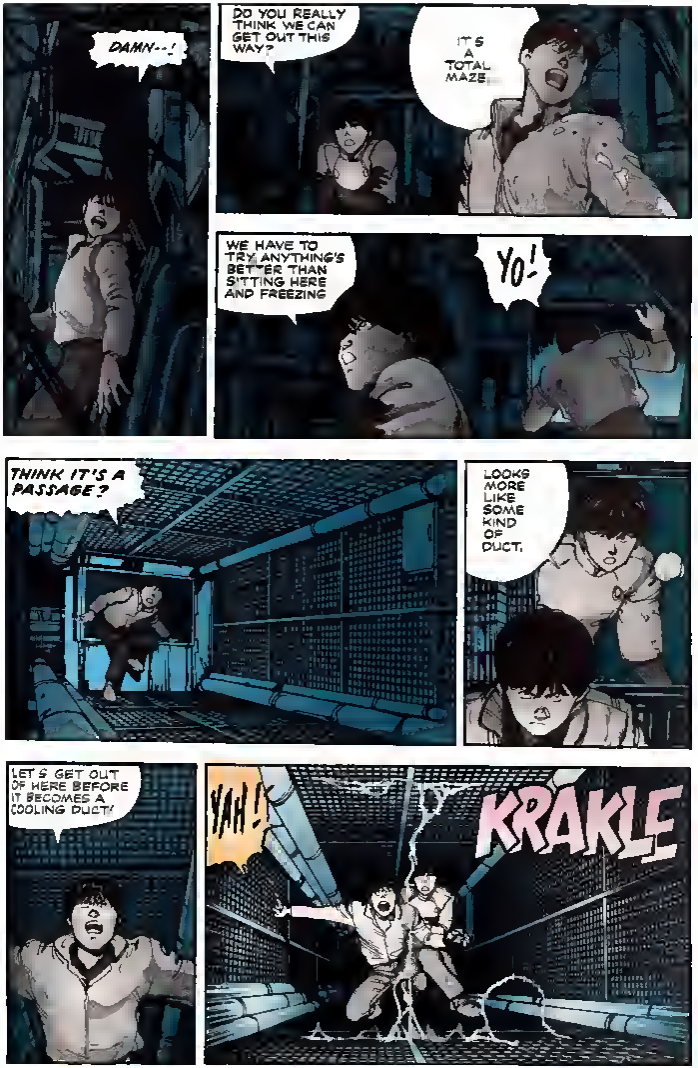
THUD
AAIEE!
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK, FRIEND, AND I CAN PAY BACK WHAT YOU DID TO ME.
AAUGH...
!
THERE'S SOMEONE ON THE ELEVATOR!
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE STILL ALIVE!
ONE OF THEM'S GOT A KNIFE!

HE CUT UP ONE OF OUR MEN!
W-WAIT!
THIS ISN'T HOW IT LOOKS--!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
CAN YOU MAKE IT UP HERE?
STEADY!
HURRY! WE'RE ALMOST OUT OF POWER. IF THE ENGINE GOES, WE'RE STUCK HERE!

HEY!
BEHIND YOU!
!
THW
YAGHK!
WE HAVEN'T GOT TIME FOR THIS!
YOU CAN FIGHT IT OUT IN HELL!
THOM
THOM
M-MAIT!
AUGH!


THAT GUY'S A FRIEND OF MINE!
GO BACK FOR HIM!
TOO LATE! THE COLD WAVE'S ABOUT TO HIT THEM!
NOOO!
.....
GOOOG


DAMN--!
DO YOU REALLY THINK WE CAN GET OUT THIS WAY?
IT'S A TOTAL MAZE...
WE HAVE TO TRY. ANYTHING'S BETTER THAN SITTING HERE AND FREEZING.
YO!
THINK IT'S A PASSAGE?
LOOKS MORE LIKE SOME KIND OF DUCT.
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE IT BECOMES A COOLING DUCT!
YAH!
KRAKLE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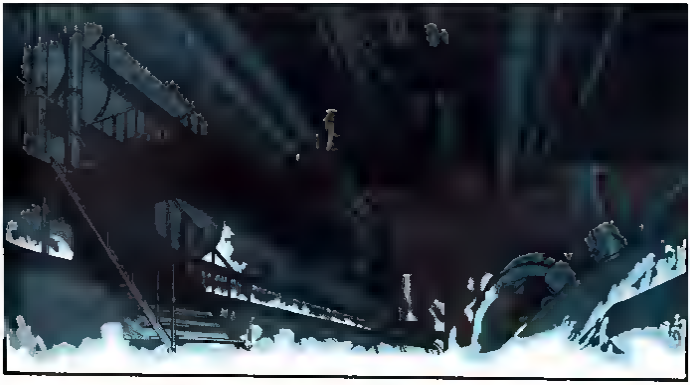
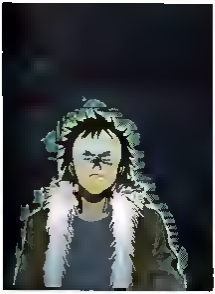
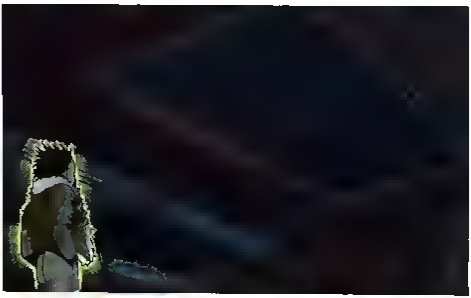
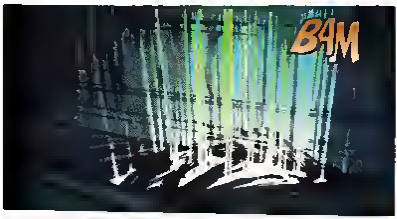
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE IT BECOMES A COOLING DUCT!
YAH!
KRAKLE

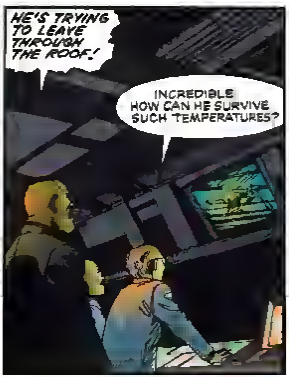
KRAKLE
WHAAT?!
VOOON
THE POWER'S BACK ON!
AND THE HEATING SYSTEM HAS FINALLY KICKED IN!
NOW! CHECK THE MONITORS! I WANT A REPORT ON THE WHERE-ABOUTS OF NUMBER 41!
CHECK THE ENTIRE AREA! I WANT TO SEE EACH CAMERA IN TURN UP ON THE SCREEN!
VOOON
WHAT IS THAT?!
I DON'T KNOW EITHER, SO LET'S HURRY!



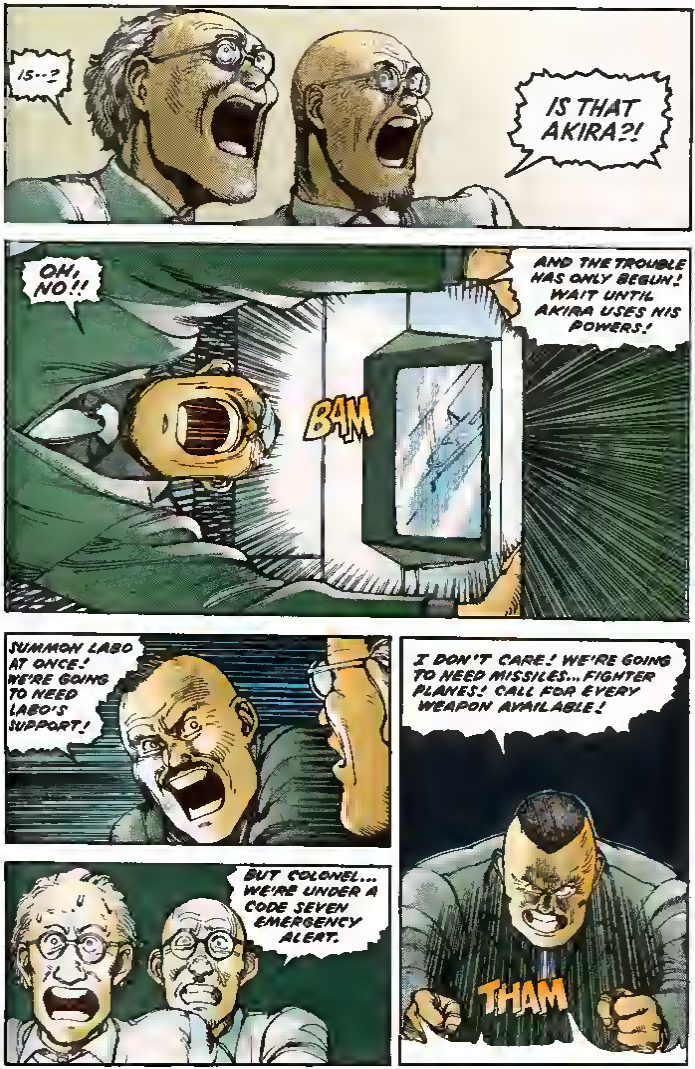


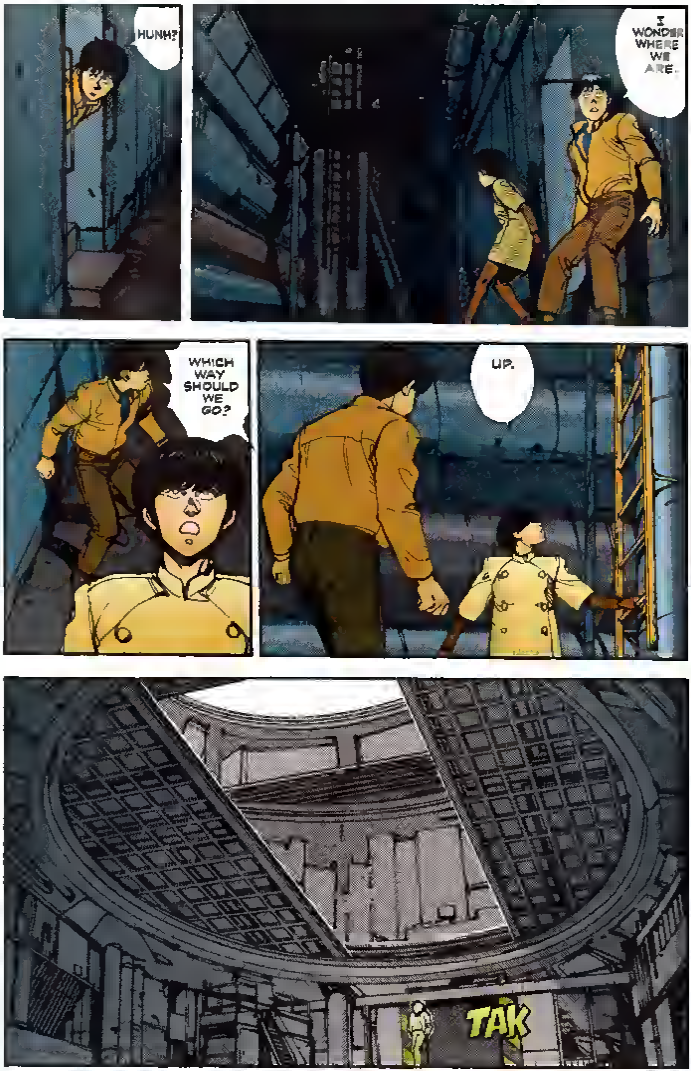



BAM


HE'S TRYING TO LEAVE THROUGH THE ROOF!
INCREDIBLE HOW CAN HE SURVIVE SUCH TEMPERATURES?

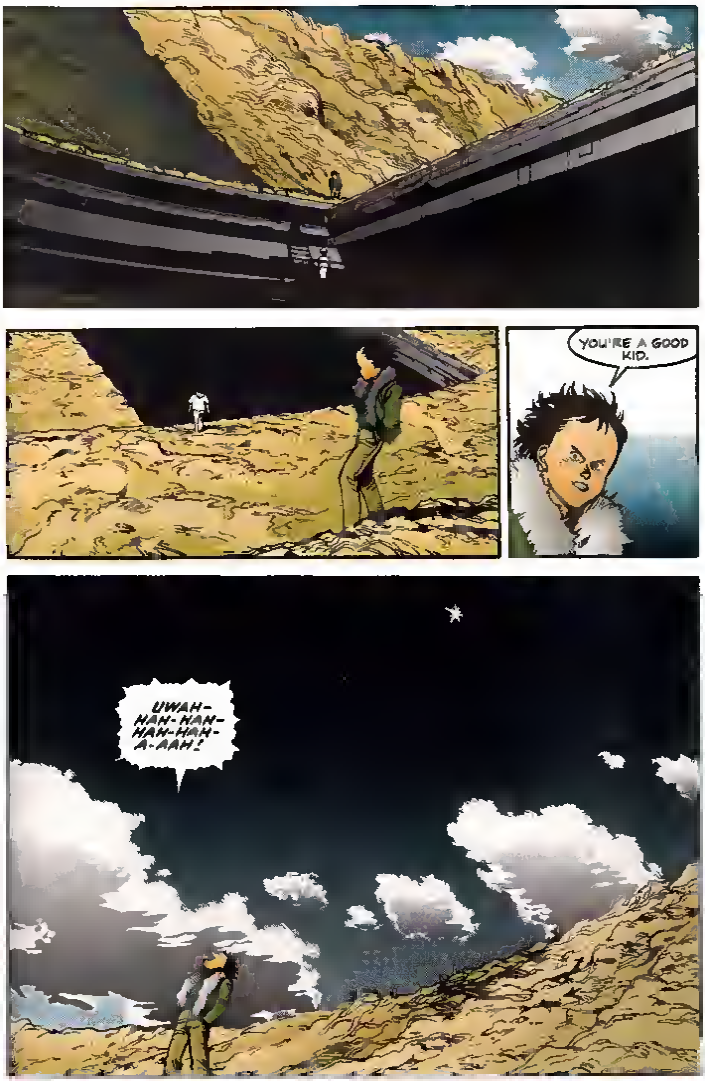
!
WHO'S THAT?!
ZOOM IN WITH THE CAMERA! I WANT TO SEE WHO'S WITH HIM!
IT'S A CHILD!
BUT, WHERE COULD...?
WE'VE MAGNIFIED THE IMAGE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, SIR.
A...KIR...A...
THE FOOL HAS AWAKENED AKIRA!


IS--?
IS THAT AKIRA?!
OH, NO!!
BAM
AND THE TROUBLE HAS ONLY BEGUN! WAIT UNTIL AKIRA USES HIS POWERS!
SUMMON LABO AT ONCE! WE'RE GOING TO NEED LABO'S SUPPORT!
I DON'T CARE! WE'RE GOING TO NEED MISSILES... FIGHTER PLANES! CALL FOR EVERY WEAPON AVAILABLE!
BUT COLONEL... WE'RE UNDER A CODE SEVEN EMERGENCY ALERT.
THAM


HUNH?
I WONDER WHERE WE ARE.
WHICH WAY SHOULD WE GO?
UP.
TAK

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?
!
OH, I GET IT IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE YOU'VE SEEN THE SUN
I'VE GOT IT!
EEP!
WE'LL USE A DEFENSE SATELLITE. GET ME SOL!
B-BUT COLONEL..

CAN SOL BE CONTROLLED FROM HERE?
I-IT S POSSIBLE...
BUT ONLY IF THE CONTROL CENTER PATCHES US THROUGH!
THEY MUST! WE MUST DESTROY OUR PROBLEM-- KILL THEM BOTH --WHILE A CHANCE STILL EXISTS!
!
TAKE A LOOK!
AT WHAT?
OH!
SUNLIGHT!


YOU'RE A GOOD KID.
UWAH-HAH-HAH-HAH-HAH-A-AAH!

KONG
PUFF
KONG
KONG
PUFF
TWO FLIGHTS TO GO.
HMM?
NOW WHAT?
GONG ONG
IT'S MOVING!
COME ON!
WE HAVE TO GET THROUGH IT BEFORE IT CLOSES!

GONG
ONG
ONG
ONG
THEY MUST HAVE REACHED THE OUTSIDE BY NOW. SEE IF YOU CAN GET ME A PICTURE.
YES, SIR. WE'RE ADJUSTING THE REMOTE ON SOL'S CAMERA 3 NOW
I'M AFRAID OUR EQUIPMENT HERE ISN'T SOPHISTICATED ENOUGH TO CAPTURE THE FULL RANGE OF THE SENSORY DATA SOL SENDS US...
I'M GETTING AN IMAGE!
GOOD!
THE MAIN HATCH WILL BE COMPLETELY CLOSED IN ONE MINUTE!

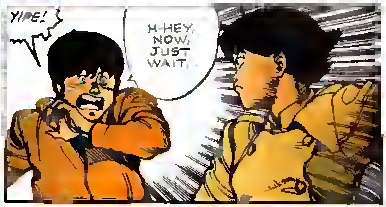
GONGONGONG
DAMN!
TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK
TAK TA
PUFF
PUFF
PUFF
COME ON!
HURRY!
PUFF
PUFF
PUFF
PUFF

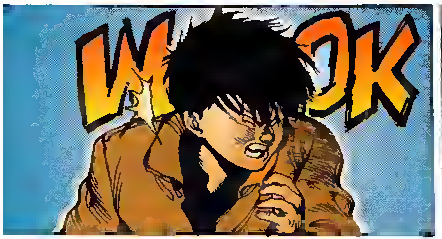
WAA!T!
DAMN THESE DOORS!
GONG
ONG
!
ONG
YEEK!
'GGHN!
THOK
MOVE IT!
OH!
GONG
KERRUNK
SHERUNK
YAGH!
GONG

SIGH
I'M SO GLAD
foof

IT'S OKAY NOW.
LEAST I COULD DO... HATE TO SEE YOU END UP AS LUNCH MEAT...
SLURP

UM...
SWOOSH

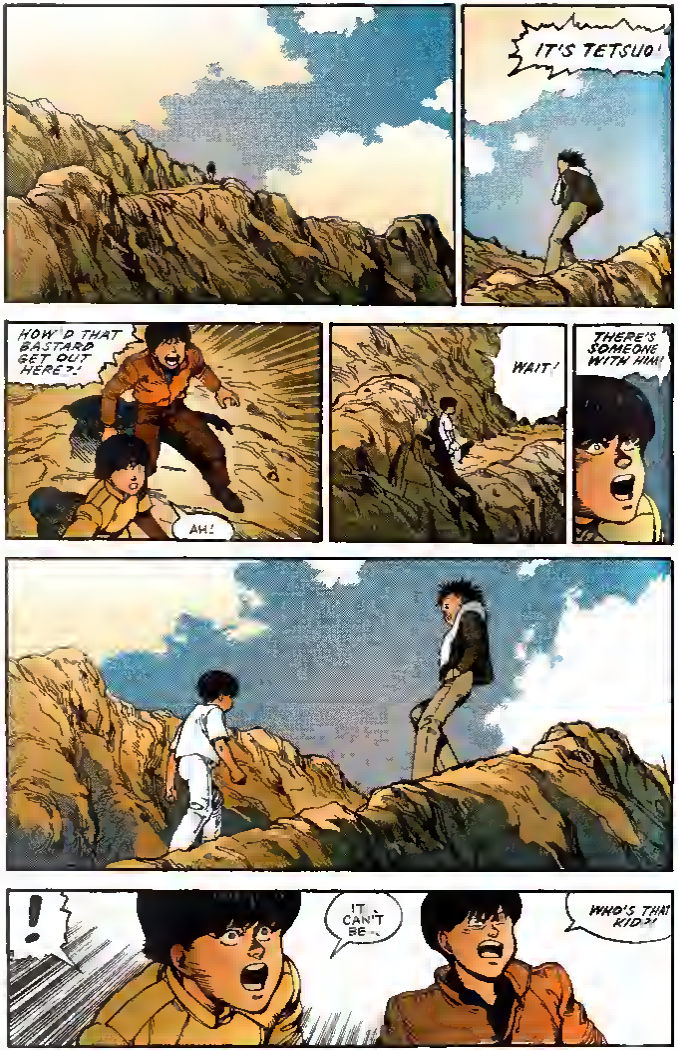

YIPE!
H-HEY, NOW, JUST WAIT.


WHOOK

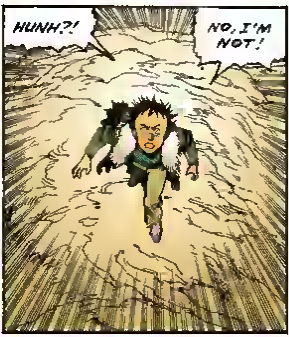
OWW!
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?
GA-

I DO APPRECIATE YOUR HELP SO MUCH.

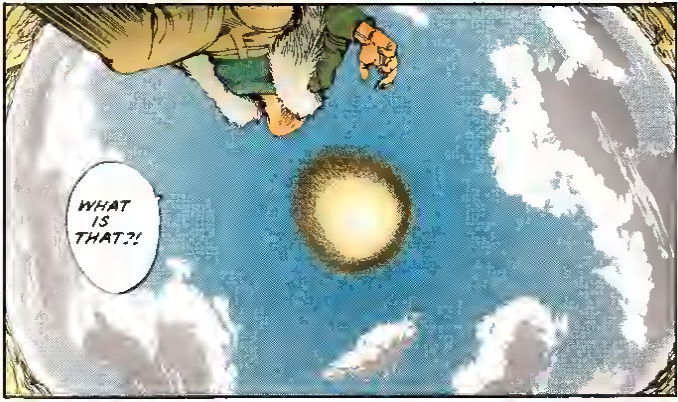
RUNH?
DO YOU KNOW WHERE WE ARE?
THIS IS THE HEART OF THE DEVASTATION-- THE PLACE WHERE THE BOMB FELL ON TOKYO!
NO KIDDING.
THE RESISTANCE KNOWS OF A TOP-SECRET BASE...
...LOCATED AT THE VERY CENTER OF THE CRATER...
DO YOU REALIZE WHAT THIS COULD MEAN?
MM?
IT COULDN'T BE...
LOOK AT THAT!

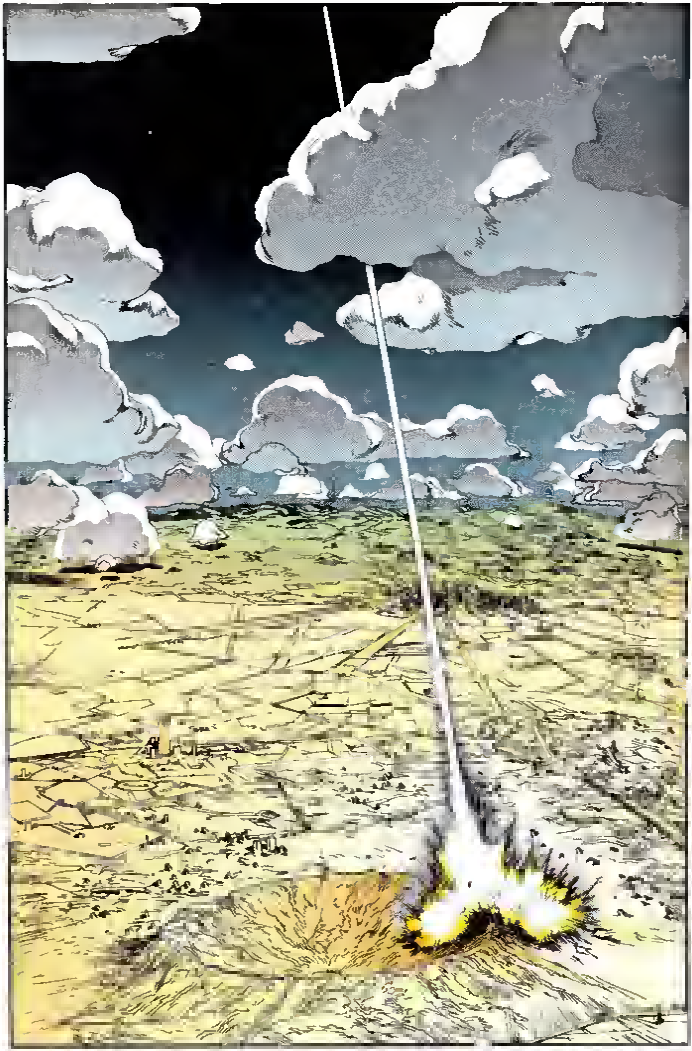

IT'S TETSUO!
HOW'D THAT BASTARD GET OUT HERE?!
AH!
WAIT!
THERE'S SOMEONE WITH HIM!
!
!T CAN'T BE...
WHO'S THAT KID?!

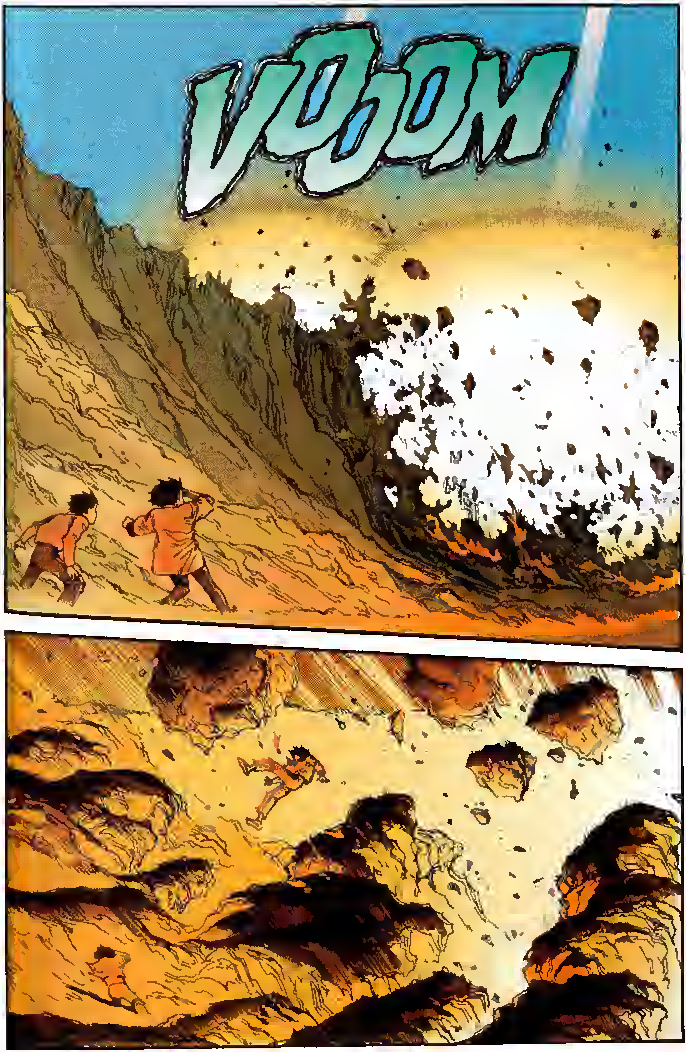
...WHAT?


HUNH?!
NO, I'M NOT!

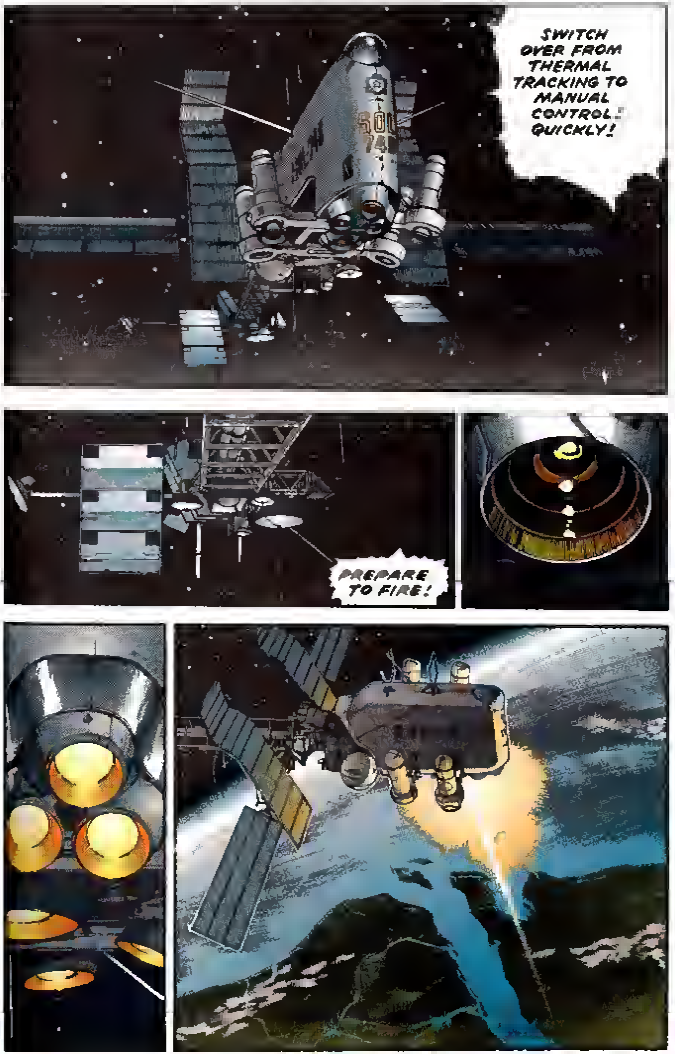
MAYBE I'M MAG NING THINGS


WHAT IS THAT?!



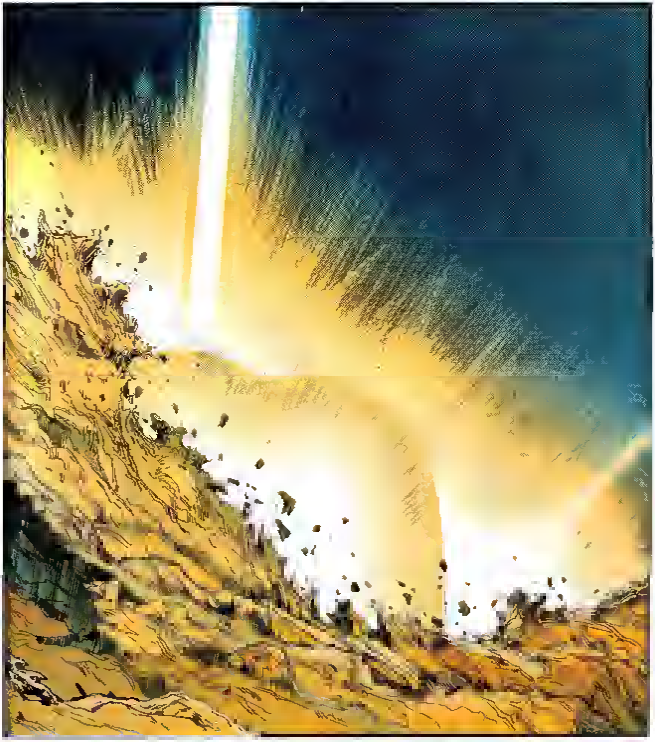

VOOM

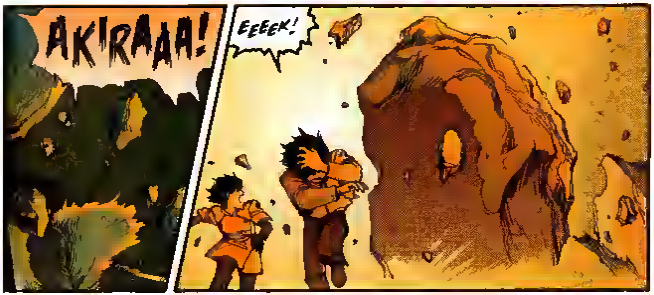
YOU MISSED THEM!
I'M SORRY, SIR AT THIS RANGE, OUR ACCURACY IS LIMITED!
GGRRR..
TAKE AIM AGAIN!


SWITCH OVER FROM THERMAL TRACKING TO MANUAL CONTROL! QUICKLY!
PREPARE TO FIRE!

VOOM

AA-AAH!

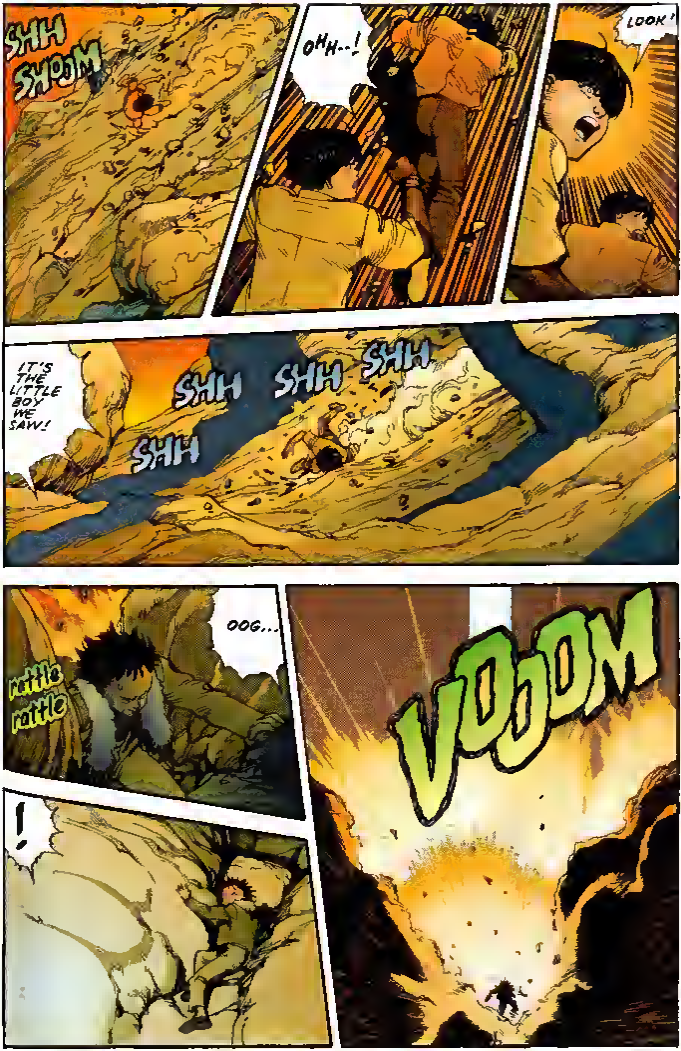


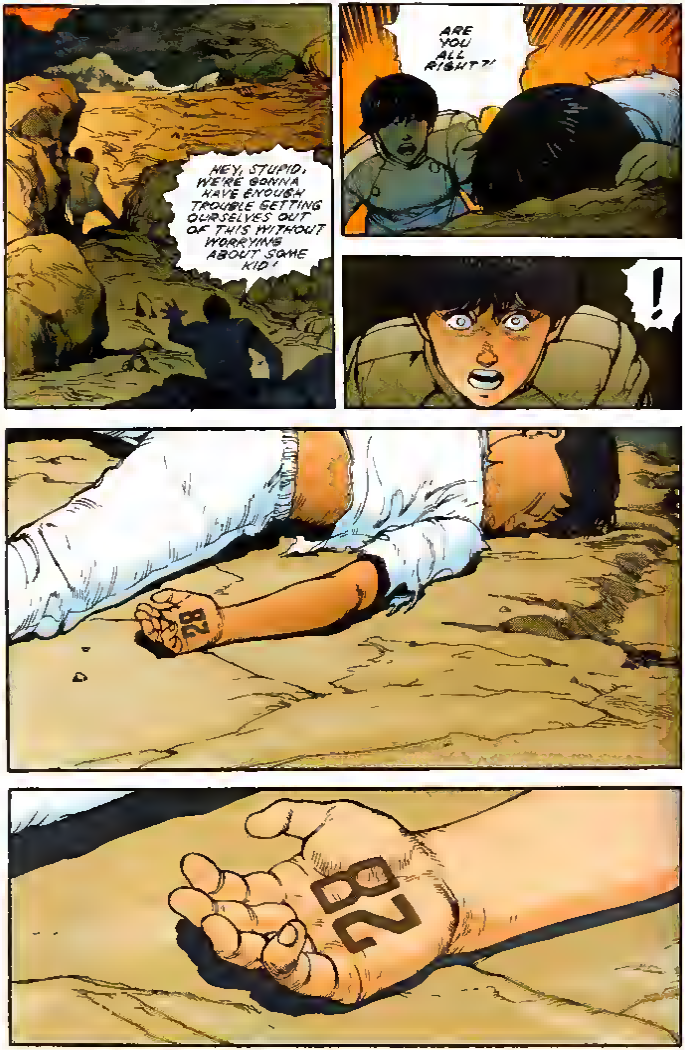

AKIRAAA!
EEEEK!

FLOOOM
RUN!
YIPE!
THIS WAY!
YEEEEK!
KERUMBLE

KIRAA!
GASP!
RRUMBLE
CUT THEM IN TWOOO!
BLAM

AKIRAA!
!
KRONK


SHH
SHH
OOM
OMH..!
LOOK!
IT'S THE LITTLE BOY WE SAW!
SHH
SHH
SHH
SHH
OOG...
rattle rattle
!
VOOOM

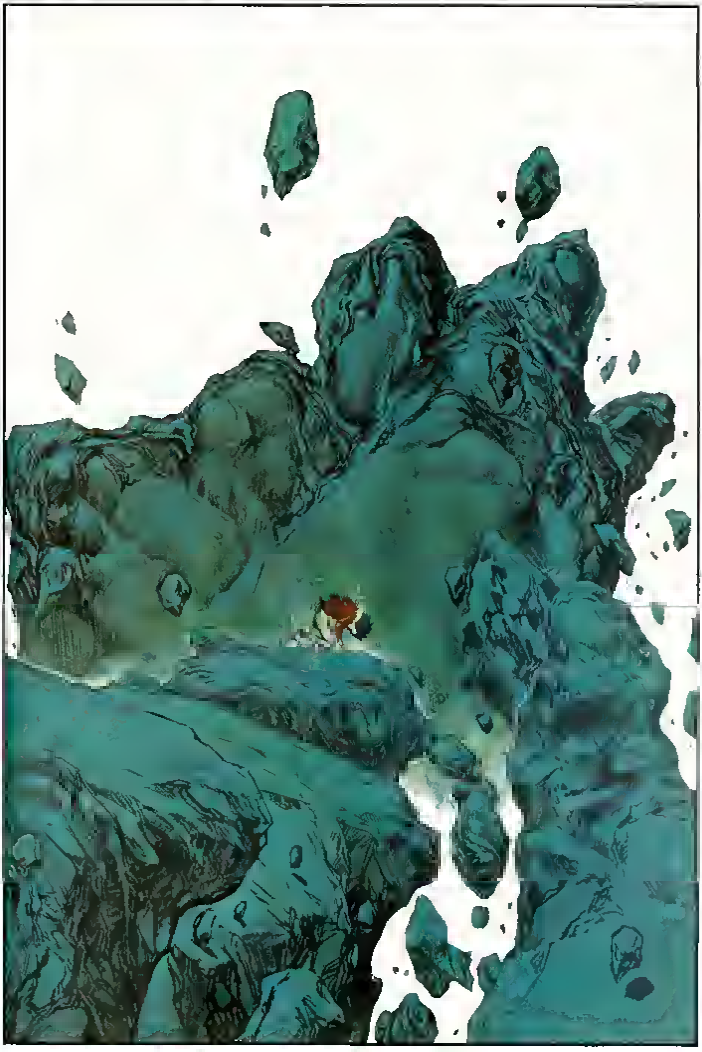

HEY, STUPID, WE'RE GONNA HAVE ENOUGH TROUBLE GETTING OURSELVES OUT OF THIS WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT SOME KID!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
!
82
82

RRUMMBLE
RRUMMBLE
COLONEL, THE HATCH--!
CONTROL YOURSELF!
IT'S NOT IMPORTANT
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?!
PUFF
PUFF

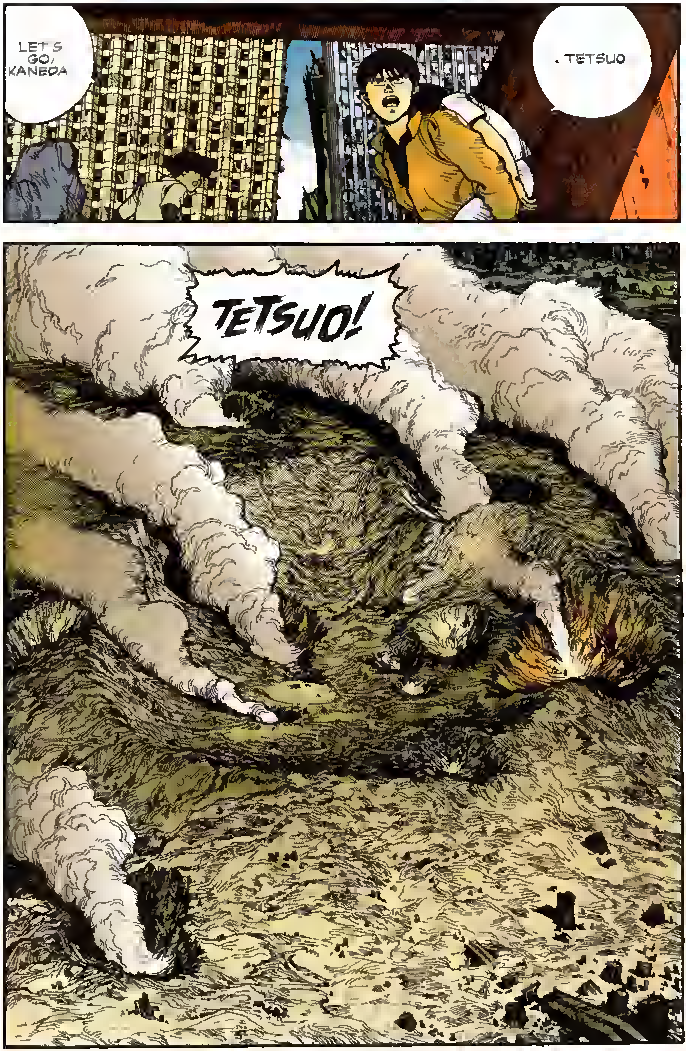
AAAH!

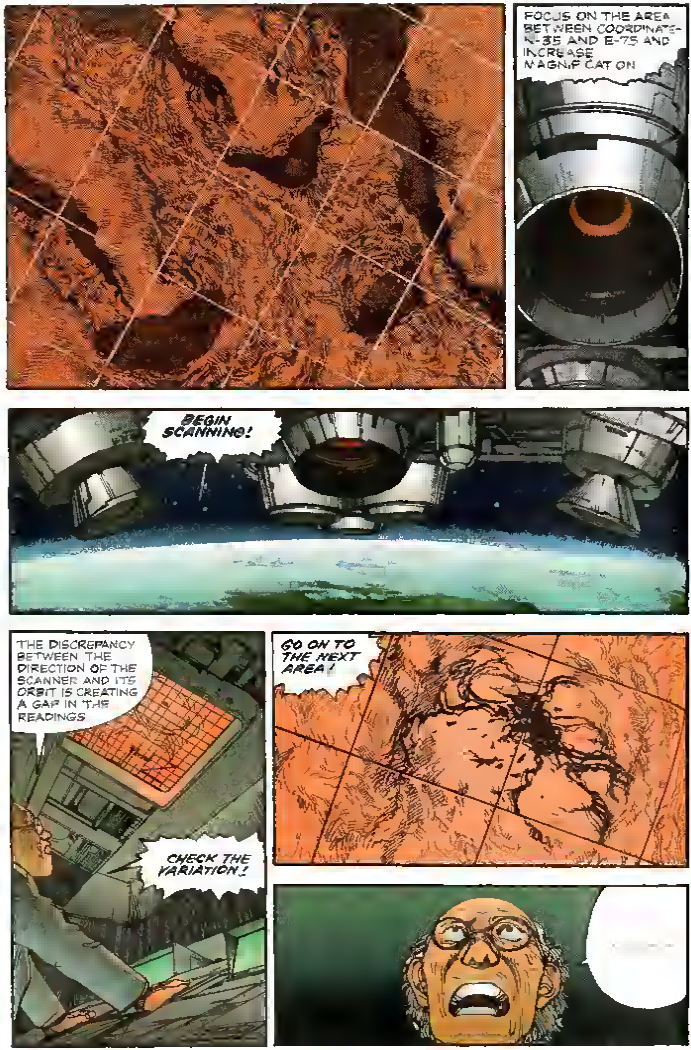
RYU!!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTED TO RESCUE THIS KID, SO HOW COME I GET STUCK CARRYING HIM?!
AAAAAAAAA

..AAH..

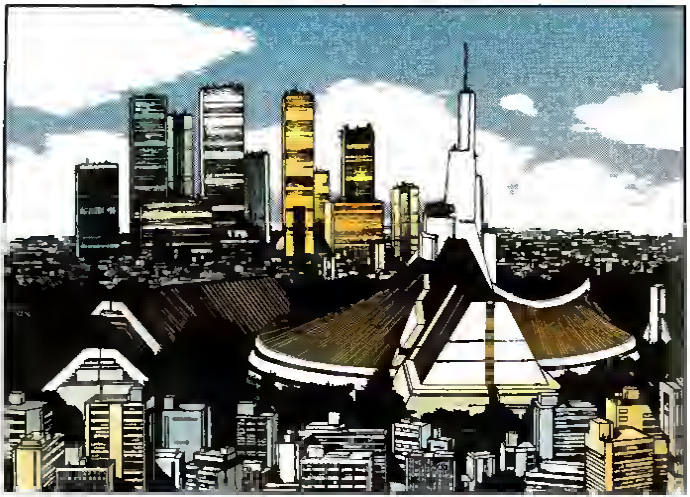


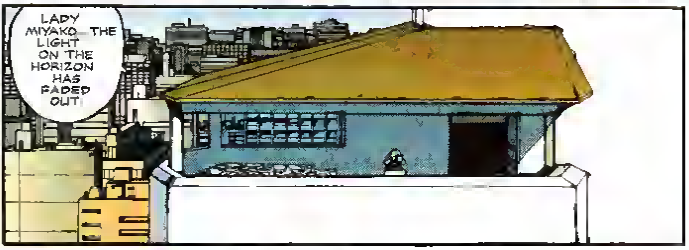
SSHHOOM
TETSUO COULDN'T HAVE SURVIVED THAT BLAST

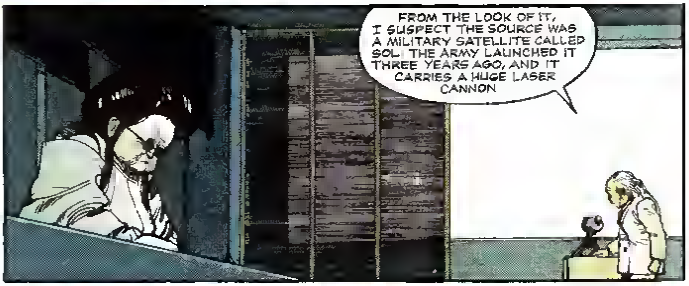

LET'S GO, KANEDA
. TETSUO
TETSUO!


FOCUS ON THE AREA BETWEEN COORDINATES N-35 AND E-75 AND INCREASE MAGNIFICATION
BEGIN SCANNING!
THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE DIRECTION OF THE SCANNER AND ITS ORBIT IS CREATING A GAP IN THE READINGS
CHECK THE VARIATION!
GO ON TO THE NEXT AREA!

WH-WHAT SHALL WE DO NOW, COLONEL?
IT DOESN'T MATTER...

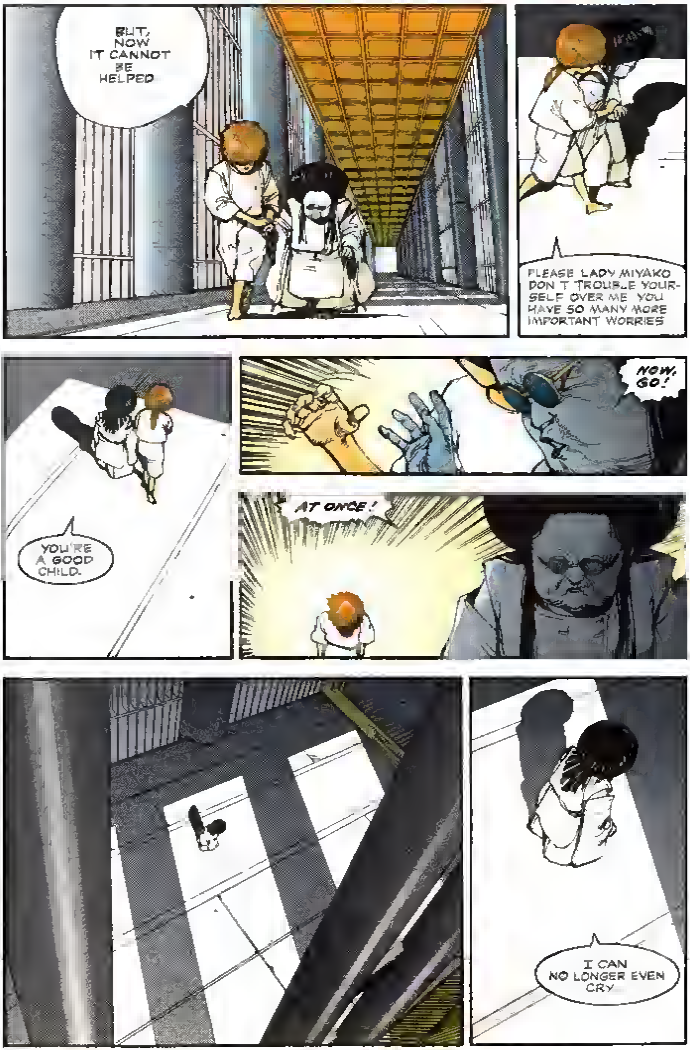


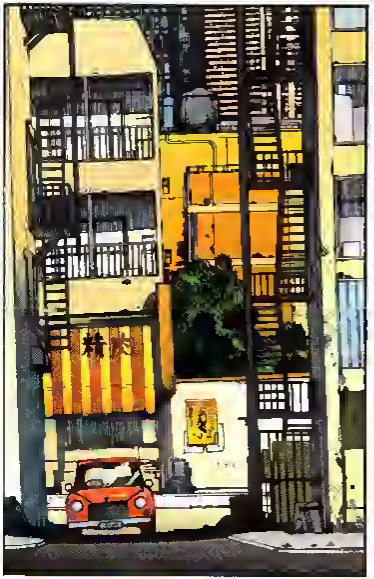

LADY MIYAKO... THE LIGHT ON THE HORIZON HAS FADED OUT!

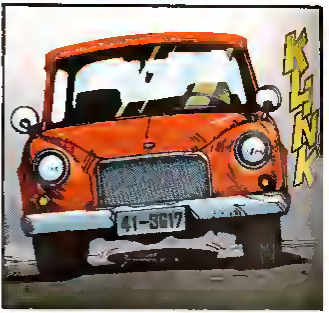

FROM THE LOOK OF IT, I SUSPECT THE SOURCE WAS A MILITARY SATELLITE CALLED SOL. THE ARMY LAUNCHED IT THREE YEARS AGO, AND IT CARRIES A HUGE LASER CANNON

SAKAKI
YES MAAM
I HAVE NEED OF YOUR SERVICE
YES, MAAM.
B-BUT, MY LADY! I'VE SERVED YOU FAITHFULLY! DONE EVERYTHING FOR YOU...
YOU SEE, NEZU... LITTLE MOUSE...
THINGS HAVE GROWN BEYOND YOUR ABILITY TO HANDLE THEM ALONE.
THE CRISIS IS UPON US. AND IT MUSTN'T CATCH YOUR PEOPLE UNAWARES.
YOU MUST SEE TO IT THAT THEY ARE READY
I UNDERSTAND!

HIS NAME IS AKIRA
YOU MUST BRING HIM TO ME.
THE LITTLE MOUSE CAN SUPPLY WHATEVER INFORMATION YOU NEED
YES MA AM
SAKAKI...
YES..?
I'M SORRY
. THAT WE NEVER FOUND THE TIME FOR YOUR FEMININE TRAINING.


BUT, NOW IT CANNOT BE HELPED
PLEASE LADY MIYAKO DON'T TROUBLE YOURSELF OVER ME. YOU HAVE SO MANY MORE IMPORTANT WORRIES
YOU'RE A GOOD CHILD.
NOW, GO!
AT ONCE!
I CAN NO LONGER EVEN CRY

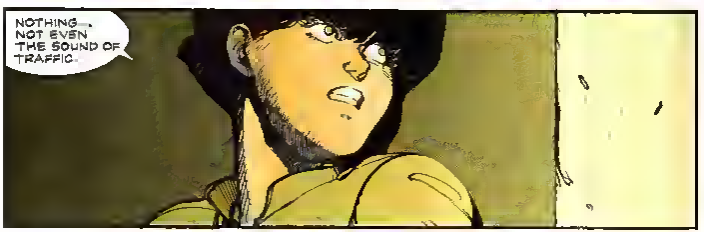


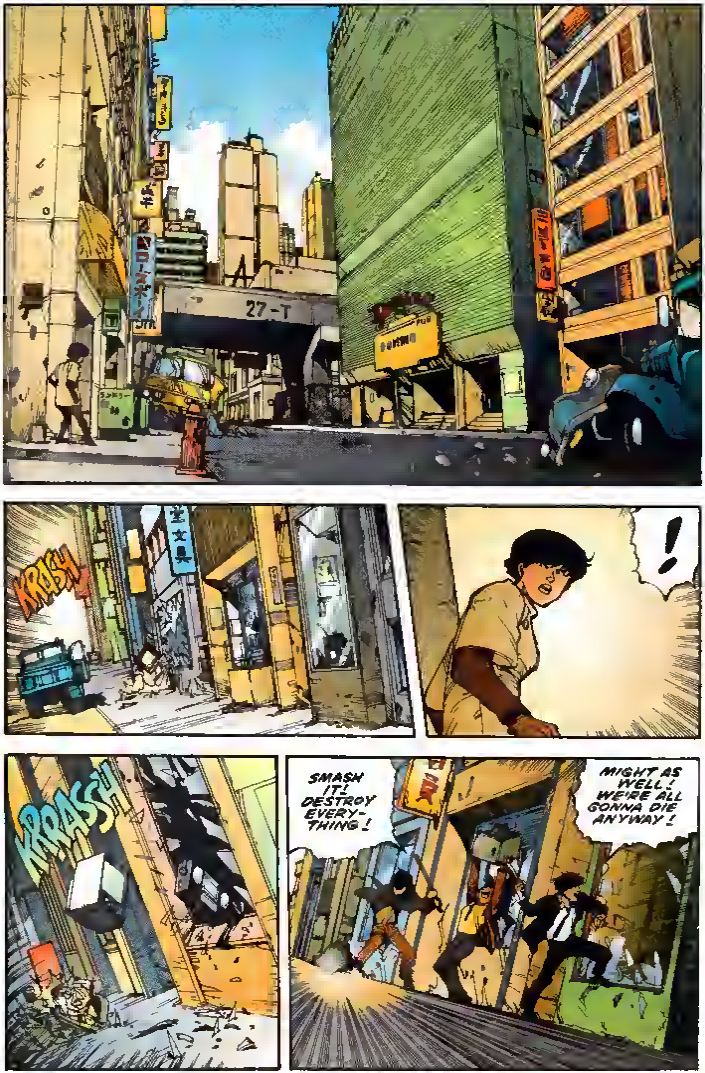

41-3617
KLINK

KLAKLUNK

TAK TAK TAK TAK

HMP!


NOTHING... NOT EVEN THE SOUND OF TRAFFIC.

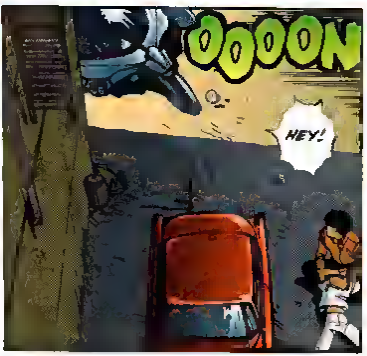

27-T
KRASH
!
KRASH
SMASH IT! DESTROY EVERY-THING!
MIGHT AS WELL! WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE ANYWAY!

KONK
OW!
WHAT A STUPID PLACE FOR SOMEONE TO PARK THEIR CAR!
KRASH
BANG
BLAM
SUNGHS
JEEZ..
HMM?
27

BHOOOOOOOO
PT-SK
77

WHA--
--WHAT IS THAT?!

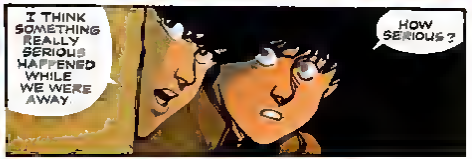
BHOOO!


OOOON
HEY!

AH... OH, KAY...

DID YOU SEE THAT THING?
LIKE A BIG MECHANICAL SPIDER!

SSH... KEEP IT DOWN.
WHY?


I THINK SOMETHING REALLY SERIOUS HAPPENED WHILE WE WERE AWAY
HOW SERIOUS?

BOOOM
SERIOUS ENOUGH TO CAUSE RIOTING IN THE STREETS!
OH!
HUNH?
BHWOOOM
LOOK! THERE'S MORE OF THEM!
BUT WHAT ARE THEY?

HUH!
WHAT'S UP?
THE POLICE ?
ストラン

KREEEEEESH

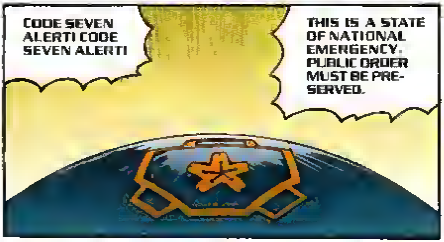
THEY LOOK LIKE BOWLING BALLS!
LET'S SHOW 'EM WE'RE NOT AFRAID!

skrit

ZZAT

ZZAAT
OHH..!
YUCK!

KINK


CODE SEVEN ALERT! CODE SEVEN ALERT!
THIS IS A STATE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY. PUBLIC ORDER MUST BE PRESERVED.

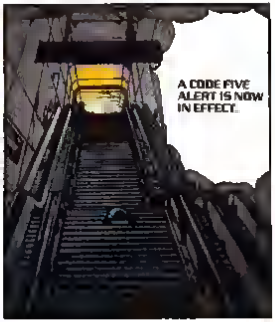
CODE SEVEN ALERT..?
ALL CITIZENS HAVE BEEN PLACED UNDER MILITARY JURISDICTION.

ANY BREACH OF THE PEACE WILL BE SEVERELY PUNISHED.
.....

BHOOM
KLAK
KLAK
BHOOM
I THINK IT'S ALL RIGHT FOR US TO GO.
BUT WHAT WERE THOSE THINGS?!
I THINK THEY'RE CALLED CARETAKERS... THE ARMY'S WATCH DOGS DURING CODE SEVEN EMERGENCIES...

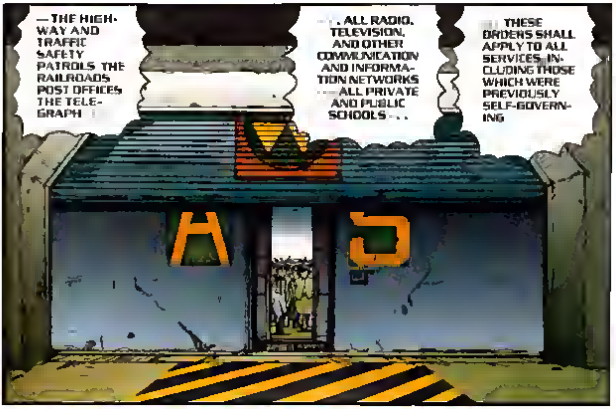
AWOOO

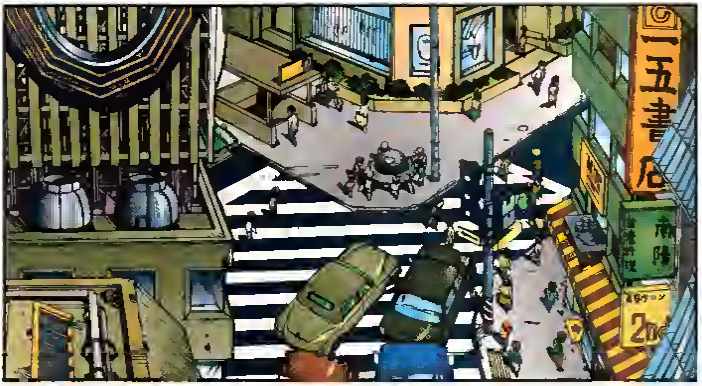
ALL CITIZENS MAY LEAVE THE SHELTERS AND RETURN HOME.
A-5
線馬線○
世田谷線○
大泉線○


A CODE FIVE ALERT IS NOW IN EFFECT.

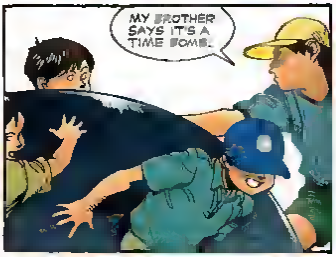
BE ADVISED THAT YOU ARE STILL UNDER MILITARY JURISDICTION.

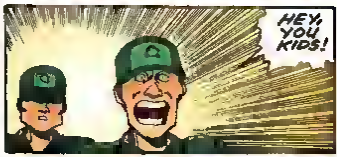
THIS IS STILL A STATE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY.
A-5
THE FOLLOWING OFFICES WILL BE RECEIVING DIRECTIVES FROM THE GOVERNMENT—
A-5

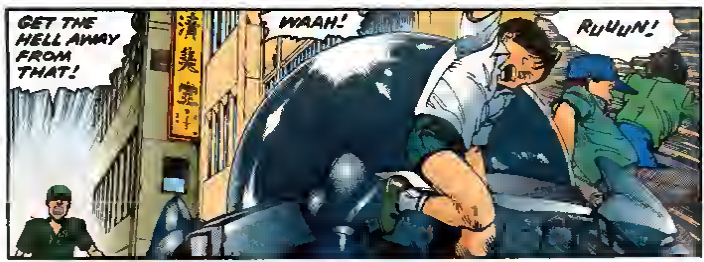

—THE HIGHWAY AND TRAFFIC SAFETY PATROLS THE RAILROADS POST OFFICES THE TELEGRAPH
. . . ALL RADIO, TELEVISION, AND OTHER COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION NETWORKS —ALL PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS . . .
THESE ORDERS SHALL APPLY TO ALL SERVICES INCLUDING THOSE WHICH WERE PREVIOUSLY SELF-GOVERNING


一五書店
南陽

MY MOMMA TOLD ME TO KEEP AWAY FROM IT.
WHAT IS IT?
27


MY BROTHER SAYS IT'S A TIME BOMB.

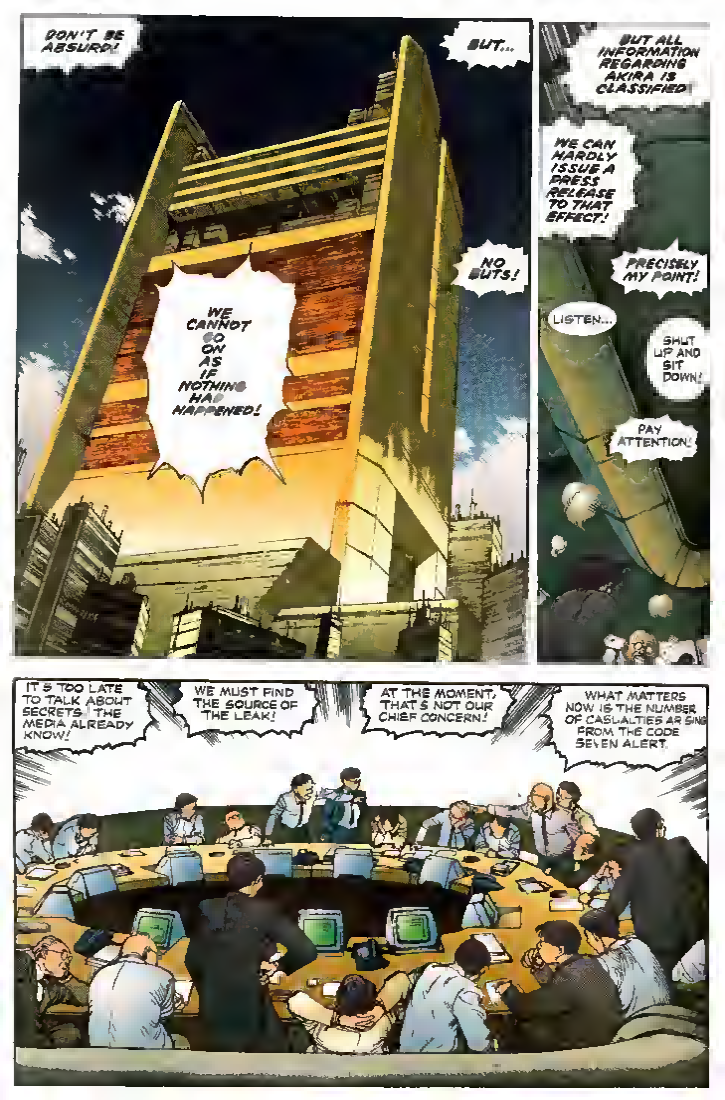

HEY, YOU KIDS!

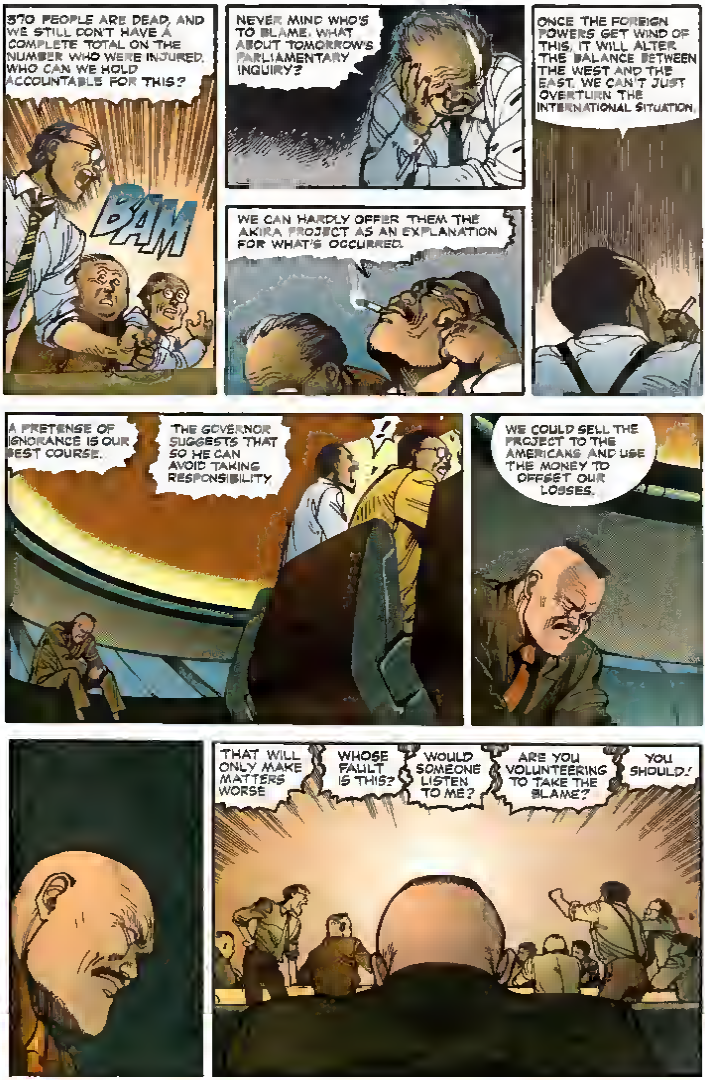

GET THE HELL AWAY FROM THAT!
MAAH!
RUUUN!

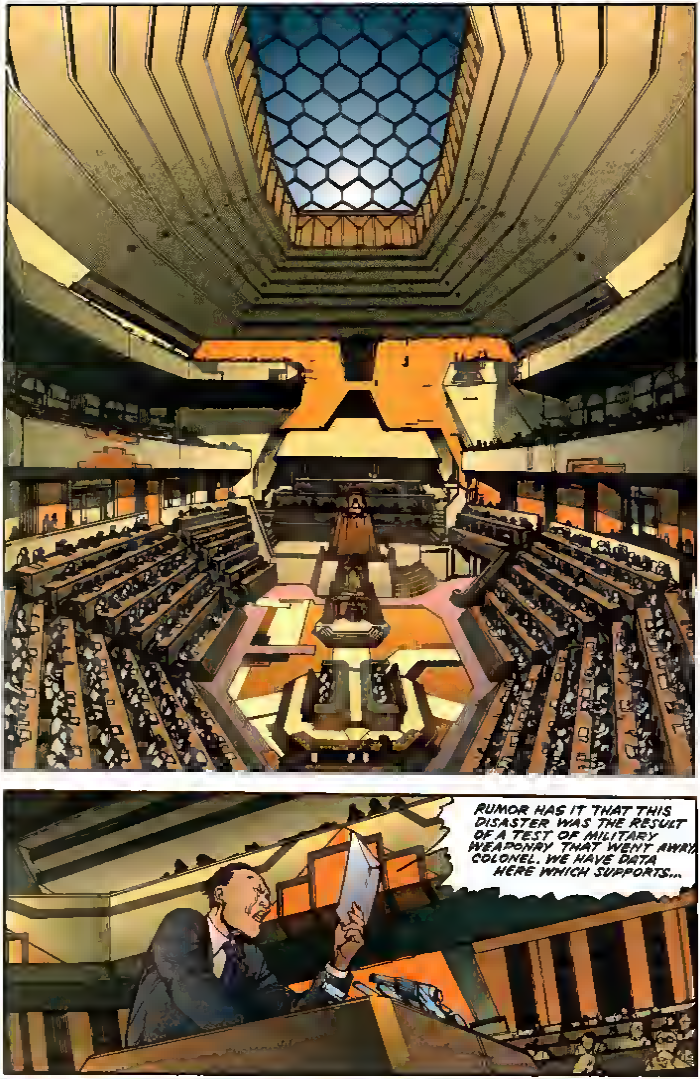
YOU STUPID PIG!
WHAT DO KIDS KNOW FROM EMERGENCIES?
KNOW WHAT I HEARD ABOUT THESE THINGS?
WHAT?
YESTERDAY AT THE ENLISTED MEN'S CLUB SOMEONE SAID...
...THESE CARETAKERS WERE BUILT TO WITHSTAND NUCLEAR ATTACK.
IF WE HAVE TO TAKE SHELTER UNDERGROUND, THEY CAN STAY UP HERE IN ALL THE RADIATION...
...AND FIGHT OFF ANYONE WHO TRIES TO INVADE.
EVEN IF EVERYONE DIES, THE ROBOTS WILL BE HERE TO PROTECT OUR LAND.

BHUUN
HMF.
HMF.
SHIFF
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
SLU-URP
GULP
GULP
GULP

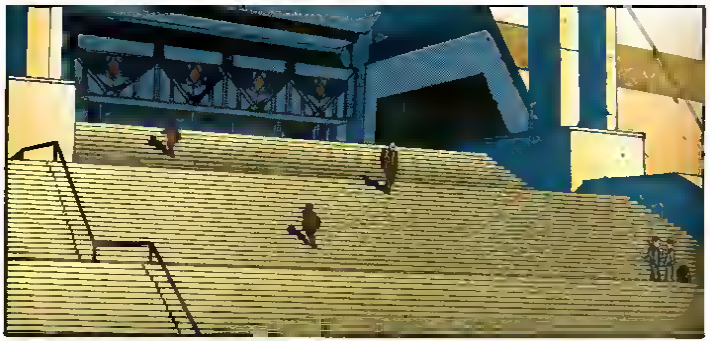
KLAK
!
THE PHONES ARE STILL OUT, AND ALL OUR PEOPLE ARE IN HIDING.
NO.
ANY LUCK?
OH...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT RYU. HE CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF.
THAT'S FOR SURE.


DON'T BE ABSURD!
BUT...
WE CANNOT GO ON AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED!
NO BUTS!
BUT ALL INFORMATION REGARDING AKIRA IS CLASSIFIED!
WE CAN HARDLY ISSUE A PRESS RELEASE TO THAT EFFECT!
PRECISELY MY POINT!
LISTEN...
SHUT UP AND SIT DOWN!
PAY ATTENTION!
IT'S TOO LATE TO TALK ABOUT SECRETS. THE MEDIA ALREADY KNOW!
WE MUST FIND THE SOURCE OF THE LEAK!
AT THE MOMENT, THAT'S NOT OUR CHIEF CONCERN!
WHAT MATTERS NOW IS THE NUMBER OF CASUALTIES ARISING FROM THE CODE SEVEN ALERT.

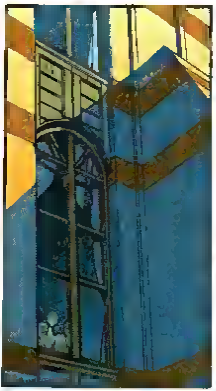

370 PEOPLE ARE DEAD, AND WE STILL DON'T HAVE A COMPLETE TOTAL ON THE NUMBER WHO WERE INJURED. WHO CAN WE HOLD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THIS?
BAM
NEVER MIND WHO'S TO BLAME. WHAT ABOUT TOMORROW'S PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY?
WE CAN HARDLY OFFER THEM THE AKIRA PROJECT AS AN EXPLANATION FOR WHAT'S OCCURRED.
ONCE THE FOREIGN POWERS GET WIND OF THIS, IT WILL ALTER THE BALANCE BETWEEN THE WEST AND THE EAST. WE CAN'T JUST OVERTURN THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION.
A PRETENSE OF IGNORANCE IS OUR BEST COURSE.
THE GOVERNOR SUGGESTS THAT SO HE CAN AVOID TAKING RESPONSIBILITY
!
WE COULD SELL THE PROJECT TO THE AMERICANS AND USE THE MONEY TO OFFSET OUR LOSSES.
THAT WILL ONLY MAKE MATTERS WORSE
WHOSE FAULT IS THIS?
WOULD SOMEONE LISTEN TO ME?
ARE YOU VOLUNTEERING TO TAKE THE BLAME?
YOU SHOULD!


RUMOR HAS IT THAT THIS DISASTER WAS THE RESULT OF A TEST OF MILITARY WEAPONRY THAT WENT AWRY, COLONEL. WE HAVE DATA HERE WHICH SUPPORTS...

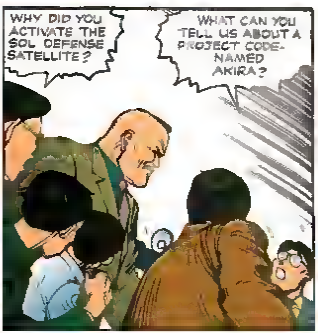
THERE ARE ALWAYS RUMORS! RUMORS AND MISINFORMATION DISSEMINATED BY RADICAL FORCES TRYING TO CREATE A NATIONAL STATE OF PANIC.
THE CODE SEVEN ALERT WAS SET IN MOTION BY A COMPUTER ERROR. THERE WAS A MALFUNCTION IN THE DEFENSE SYSTEMS. THAT IS ALL IT EVER WAS.
AS TO THE QUESTION OF WHEN WE WILL BE LIFTING MARTIAL LAW...
AS I HAVE ALREADY STATED, THERE ARE CERTAIN RADICAL FORCES ATTEMPTING TO EXPLOIT THIS SITUATION AS IT NOW EXISTS...
THEREFORE, IN THE INTERESTS OF MAINTAINING ORDER...
BUT, MR CHAIRMAN, THE DATA I HAVE HERE..
LET THE COLONEL FINISH SPEAKING!
THIS SESSION IS ADJOURNED!
WE'LL NEED A RECESS IN WHICH TO REVIEW...
BUT HOW CAN YOU...?



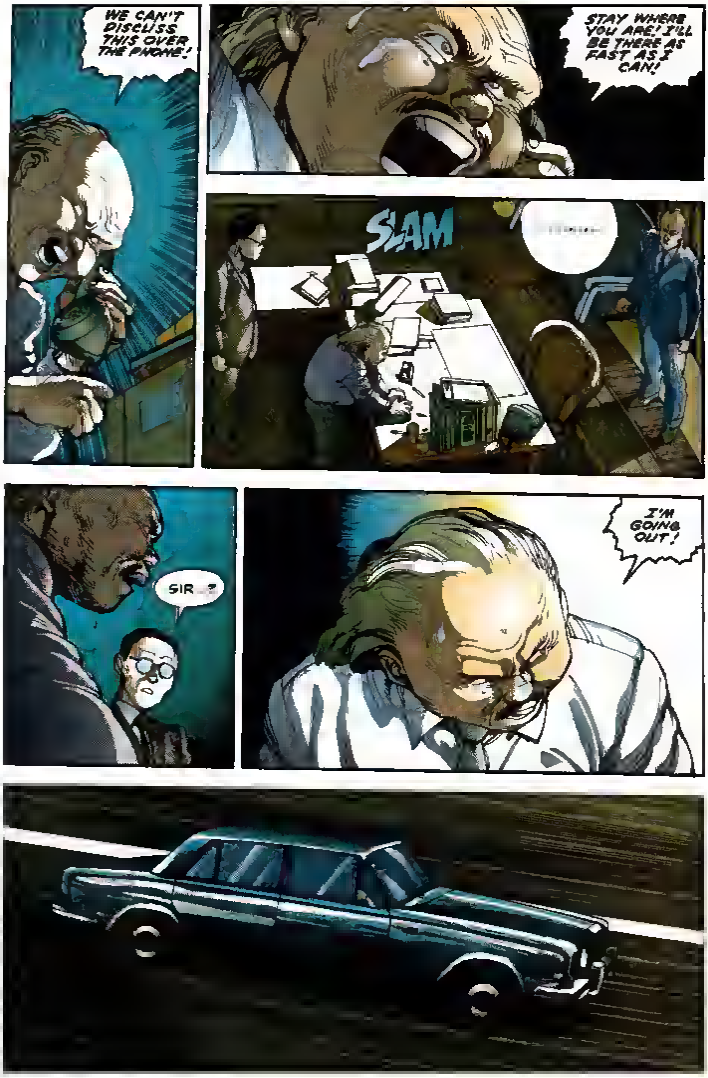
!
tak tak

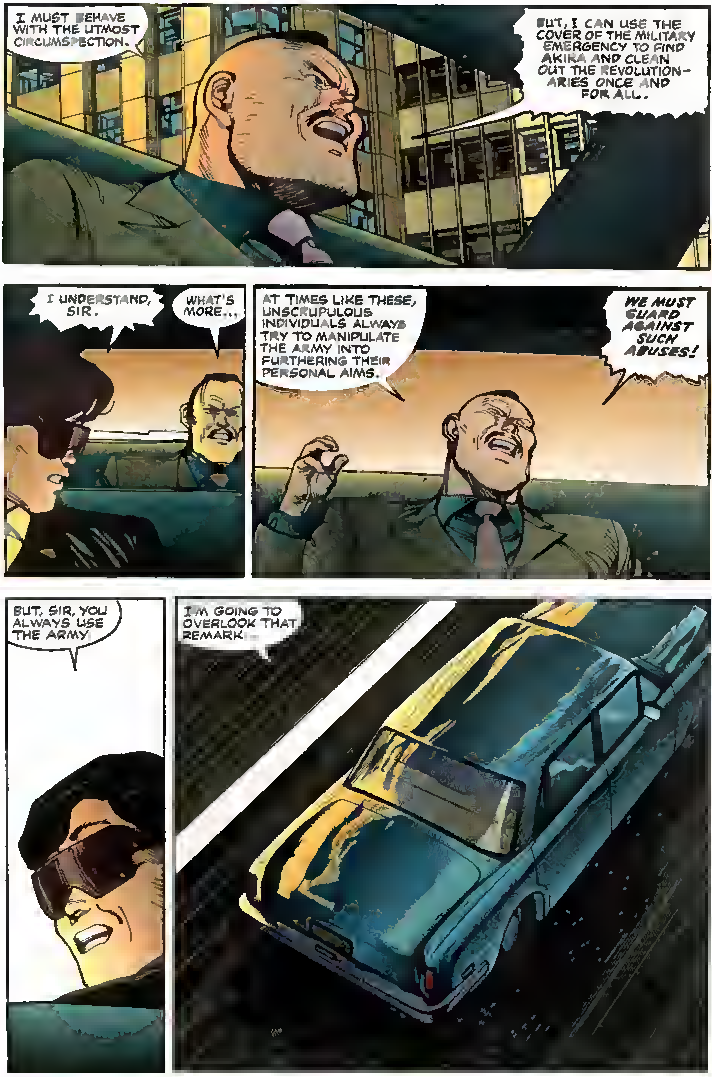


...COLONEL HAVE YOU READ THE REPORTS THAT--?
THERE ARE RUMORS OF A FORGOTTEN SECRET WEAPON...


WHY DID YOU ACTIVATE THE SOL DEFENSE SATELLITE?
WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT A PROJECT CODE-NAMED AKIRA?

MR. NEZU'S OFFICE...
NO, I'M AFRAID MR NEZU IS UNAVAILABLE AT THE MOMENT
YES, I SEE. URGENT...
PERHAPS IF YOU WERE TO TELL ME...
WHO IS IT?
SHE INSISTS ON SPEAKING WITH YOU DIRECTLY, SIR.
SHE SAYS SHE'S RYUSAKU'S SISTER..
RYU'S SISTER... KAY?
VERY WELL
HELLO? YES! I TOLD YOU NEVER TO CALL ME HERE!
WHAT?!
AKIRA?!

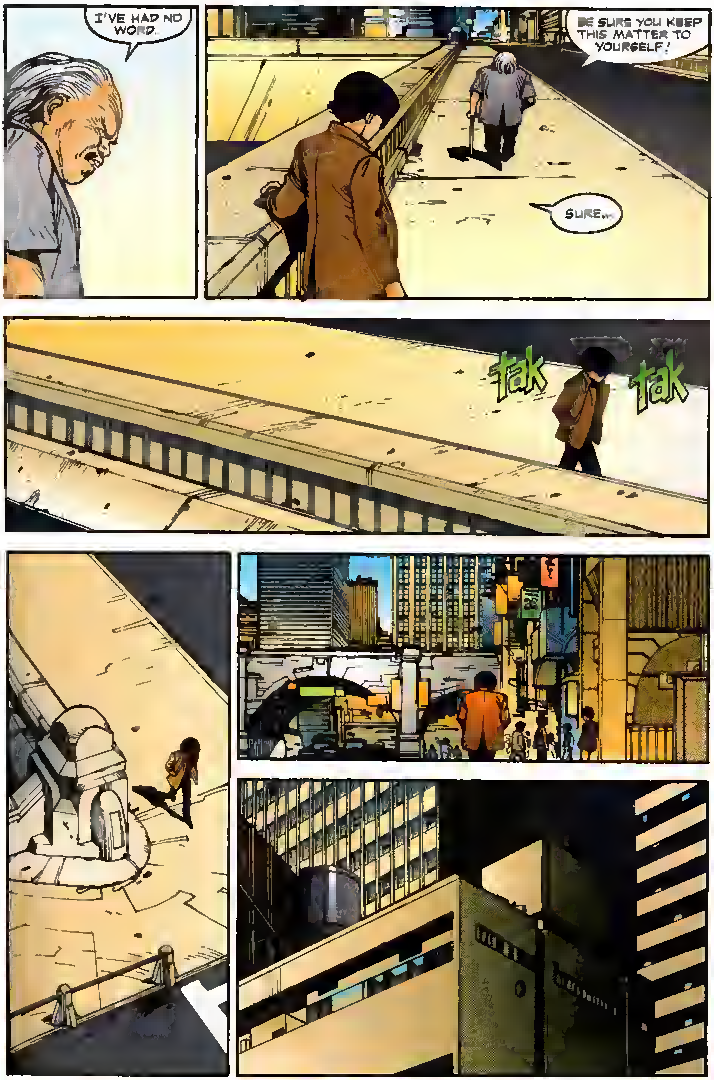

WE CAN'T DISCUSS THIS OVER THE PHONE!
STAY WHERE YOU ARE! I'LL BE THERE AS FAST AS I CAN!
SLAM
SIR...?
I'M GOING OUT!


I MUST BEHAVE WITH THE UTMOST CIRCUMSPECTION.
BUT, I CAN USE THE COVER OF THE MILITARY EMERGENCY TO FIND AKIRA AND CLEAN OUT THE REVOLUTIONARIES ONCE AND FOR ALL.
I UNDERSTAND, SIR.
WHAT'S MORE...
AT TIMES LIKE THESE, UNSCRUPULOUS INDIVIDUALS ALWAYS TRY TO MANIPULATE THE ARMY INTO FURTHERING THEIR PERSONAL AIMS.
WE MUST GUARD AGAINST SUCH ABUSES!
BUT, SIR, YOU ALWAYS USE THE ARMY.
I'M GOING TO OVERLOOK THAT REMARK!

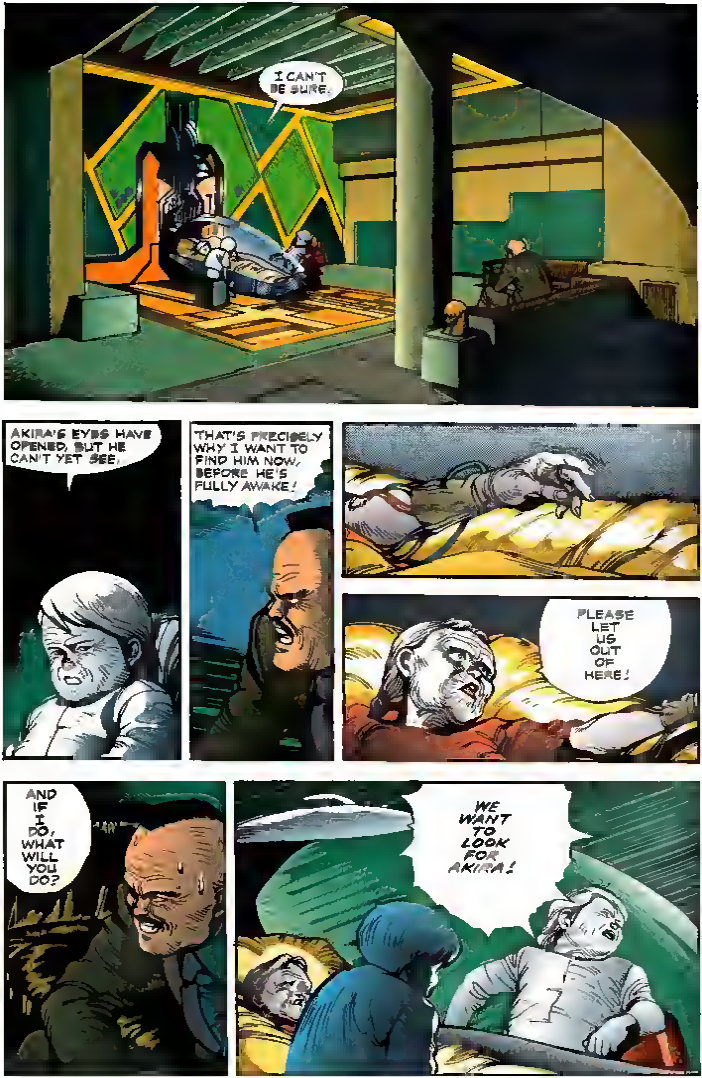
!
ARE YOU KAY?
YES, I AM.

30
YOU ESCAPED FROM THE UNDERGROUND BASE AT THE HEART OF DESTRUCTION?
I WAS WONDERING... WAS ALL THAT DEVASTATION AKIRA'S DOING?
YOU KNOW THAT CRATER WAS LEFT BY A BOMB.
YOU MEAN AKIRA WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR WORLD WAR THREE?
I DON'T KNOW. PERHAPS.
...TH-THAT SUGGESTION IS PREPOSTEROUS!

CAN YOU BRING AKIRA TO ME?
NO PROBLEM WHERE WILL YOU BE?
I HAVE A SAFE HOUSE IN THE 24TH DISTRICT, HERE'S THE ADDRESS
THIS MATTER IS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. TELL NO ONE OF IT NOT EVEN THE YOUNG MAN WHO'S WITH YOU. IS THAT STRICTLY UNDERSTOOD?
WAIT
WHAT IS IT?
WHAT ABOUT RYU? DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS?

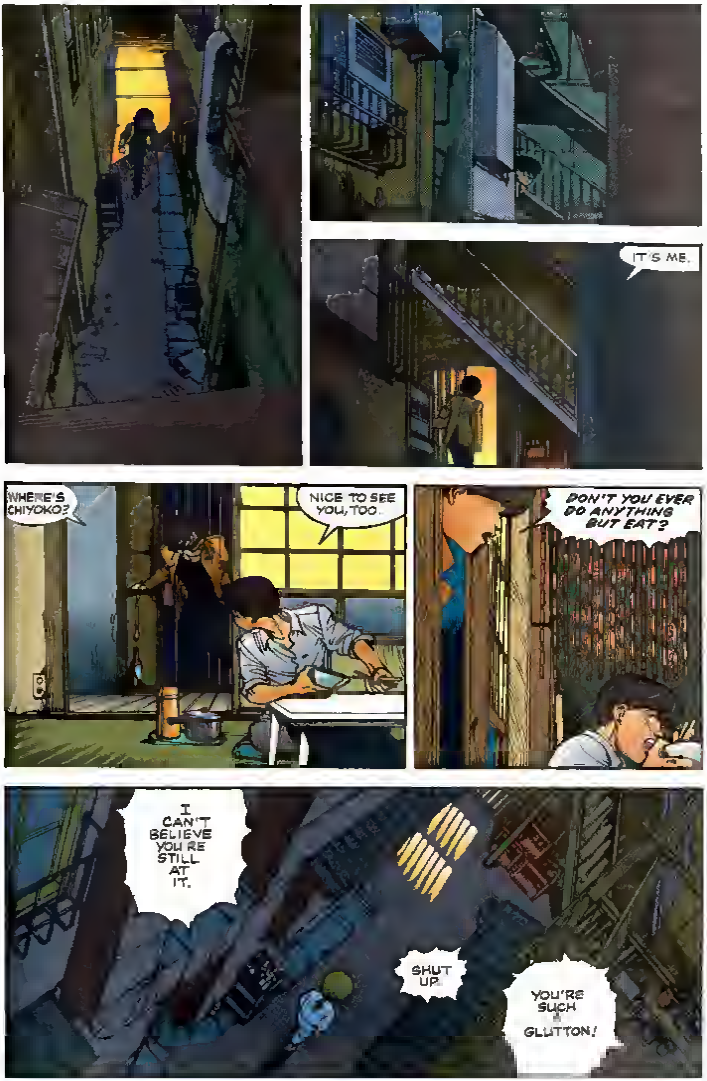

I'VE HAD NO WORD.
BE SURE YOU KEEP THIS MATTER TO YOURSELF!
SURE...
tak
tak

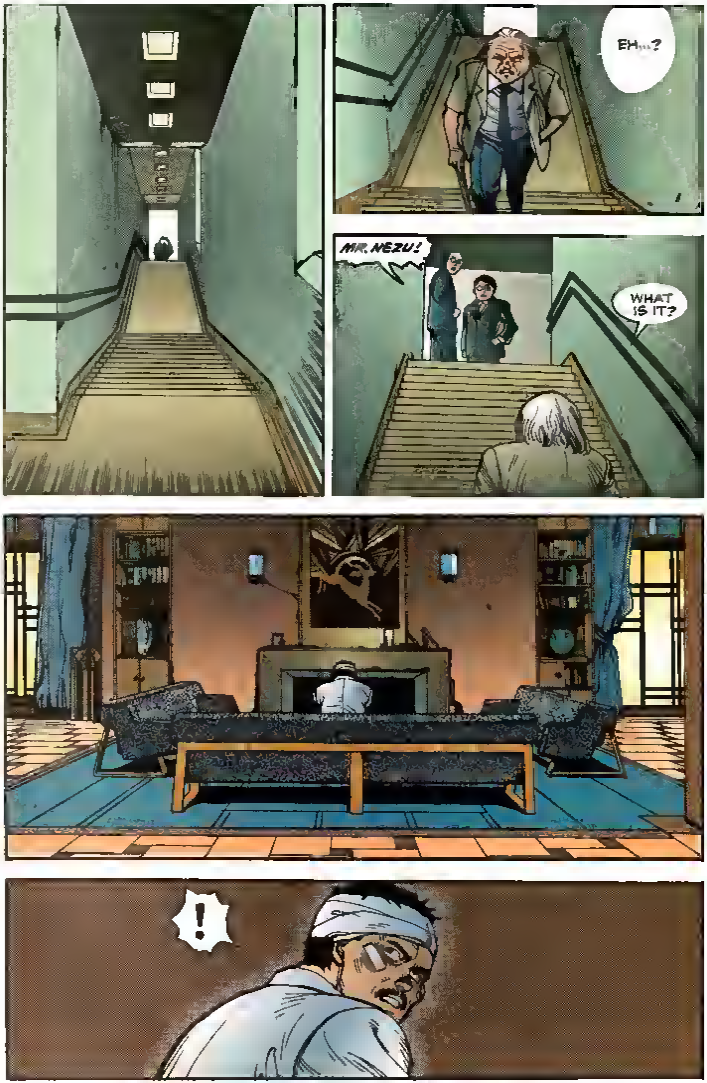
TELL ME, KIYOKO, IS NUMBER 41 STILL ALIVE?
I CANNOT SAY... IS THERE SOMETHING MORE?
I MUST FIND OUT WHERE HE IS NOW.
YOU'VE ALREADY TOLD ME AKIRA HAS RISEN.


I CAN'T BE SURE.
AKIRA'S EYES HAVE OPENED, BUT HE CAN'T YET SEE.
THAT'S PRECISELY WHY I WANT TO FIND HIM NOW, BEFORE HE'S FULLY AWAKE!
PLEASE LET US OUT OF HERE!
AND IF I DO, WHAT WILL YOU DO?
WE WANT TO LOOK FOR AKIRA!

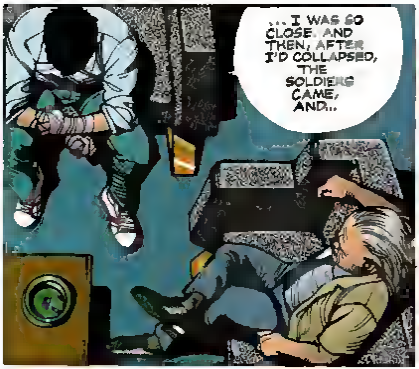
HE'S ONE OF US, AND WE MISS HIM.
THE TRUTH IS, I CAME TO ASK YOU TO DO THAT VERY THING.

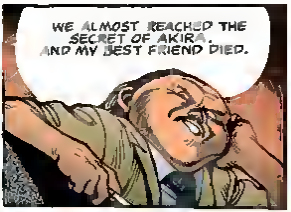
tak
tak
tak
.....
.....
IS MY IMAGINATION PLAYING TRICKS ON ME?


IT'S ME.
WHERE'S CHIYOKO?
NICE TO SEE YOU, TOO.
DON'T YOU EVER DO ANYTHING BUT EAT?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE STILL AT IT.
SHUT UP.
YOU'RE SUCH A GLUTTON!


EH...?
MR. NEZU!
WHAT IS IT?
!

SLAM
AYU, YOU FOOL! I TOLD YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM THIS OFFICE!
I'M SORRY, SIR, BUT I THOUGHT YOU'D WANT MY REPORT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO YOURSELF?
DONE...?
YOU MEAN THESE BANDAGES?
IT'S FROSTBITE, SIR. I'VE BEEN IN A MILITARY HOSPITAL.
MILITARY...
SIR, YOU MUST LISTEN!


... I WAS SO CLOSE. AND THEN, AFTER I'D COLLAPSED, THE SOLDIERS CAME, AND...


WE ALMOST REACHED THE SECRET OF AKIRA. AND MY BEST FRIEND DIED.

I SWEAR I'LL MAKE THEM PAY!

NEVER MIND THAT NOW.

BUT WE FINALLY KNOW WHERE AKIRA IS!

WAS.

HUNH?

WHILE YOU WERE OUT OF COMMISSION, OUR PARTY REVISED ITS POLICY.

IN THE FUTURE, WE EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO ATTACK THE GOVERNMENT QUITE OPENLY.

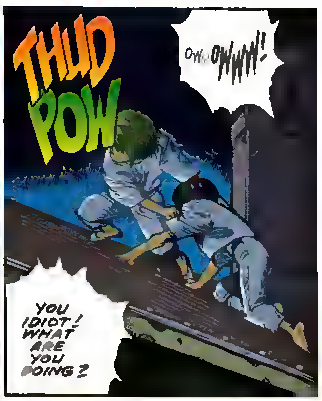
WE'VE ACQUIRED A SECRET WEAPON OF OUR OWN. WHICH WILL BE ARRIVING HERE SHORTLY
BUT WHAT ABOUT ME?
FOR THE MOMENT, YOU JUST CONCENTRATE ON GETTING WELL
I APPRECIATE THE INFORMATION YOU'VE BROUGHT ME...
KLK
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR GOOD WORK
SO THE GIRL WAS RIGHT! AMAZING
KLM

ARE YOU... AKIRA?
WAKE UP

SIGH
THE STARS LOOK GREAT TONIGHT.
PUNK
SHUNK
"STARRY, STARRY NIGHT..."

!
WHO ARE YOU ?!
A GIRL?
KRASH
!
WHAT'S GOING ON UP THERE?!
AGH!

KRASH
BAM
bump
bump
bump
bump

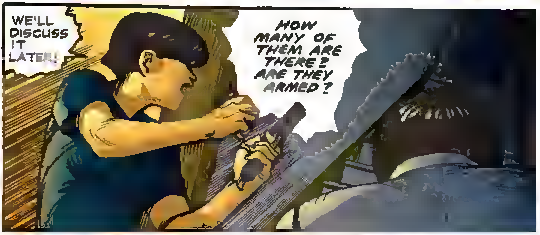

THUD
POW
OWWW!
YOU IDIOT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

THE KID-- AKIRA...
WHAT ABOUT AKIRA?!

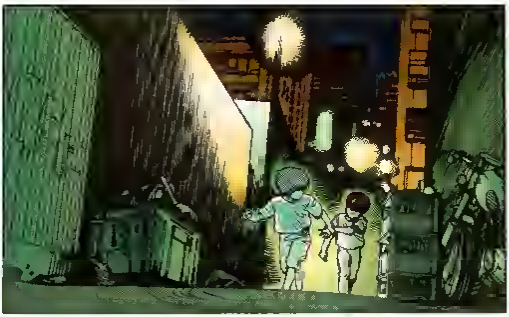
THERE'S SOMEONE UPSTAIRS KIDNAPPING HIM!

KLAK

SOMEONE TAILED YOU, AND YOU NEVER NOTICED!


WE'LL DISCUSS IT LATER!
HOW MANY OF THEM ARE THERE? ARE THEY ARMED?

WHAT?
ONLY ONE GIRL?
YOU THINK AN ORDINARY GIRL COULD HAVE KNOCKED ME ON MY ASS LIKE THAT?
ARE YOU SAYING...
...SHE MUST HAVE... THE POWER?
CHI...CHIYOKO...
I HOPE THIS IS STRONG ENOUGH TO HANDLE HER
LET'S GO!



:GASP!

bhoooon

THIS IS A CODE FIVE ALERT.
PK-2

A CURFEW IS IN EFFECT. IT IS FORBIDDEN TO GO OUT AT NIGHT
BHOOOON
I REPEAT. THIS IS A CODE FIVE
PK 20
95

BADOOM
.....
KRASH
SKRIT
!
ZZAT
ZAT

A fanfare. A chorus. The awakening of Akira has begun.

Tetsuo, juvenile delinquent turned power mad mutant, jealously nurses the psychic child. The race for control of Akira rushes on, spurred by warring factions who all vie for possession of the force that may doom Neo-Tokyo.

In the future, the end has begun. Hail the dawn of a new era for mankind; perhaps its last.

AKIRA

04

0 24885 23668 2

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